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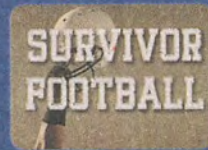
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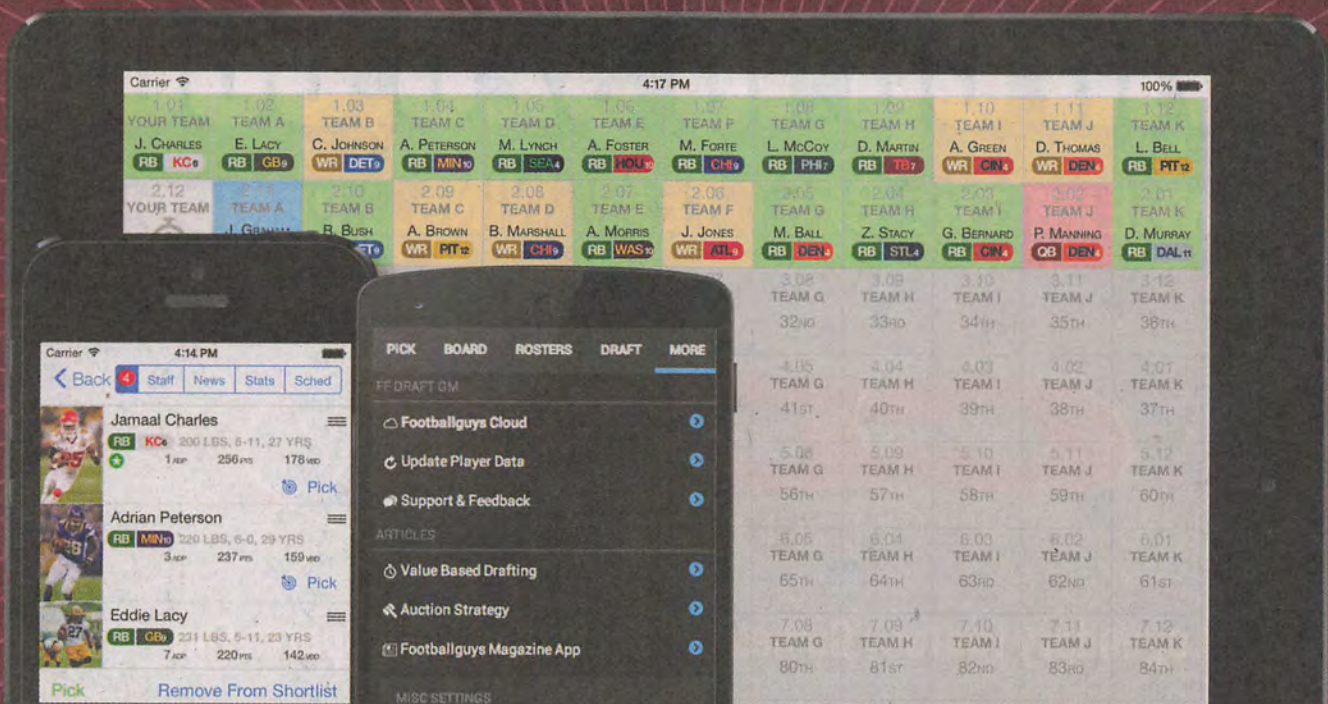
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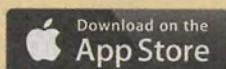


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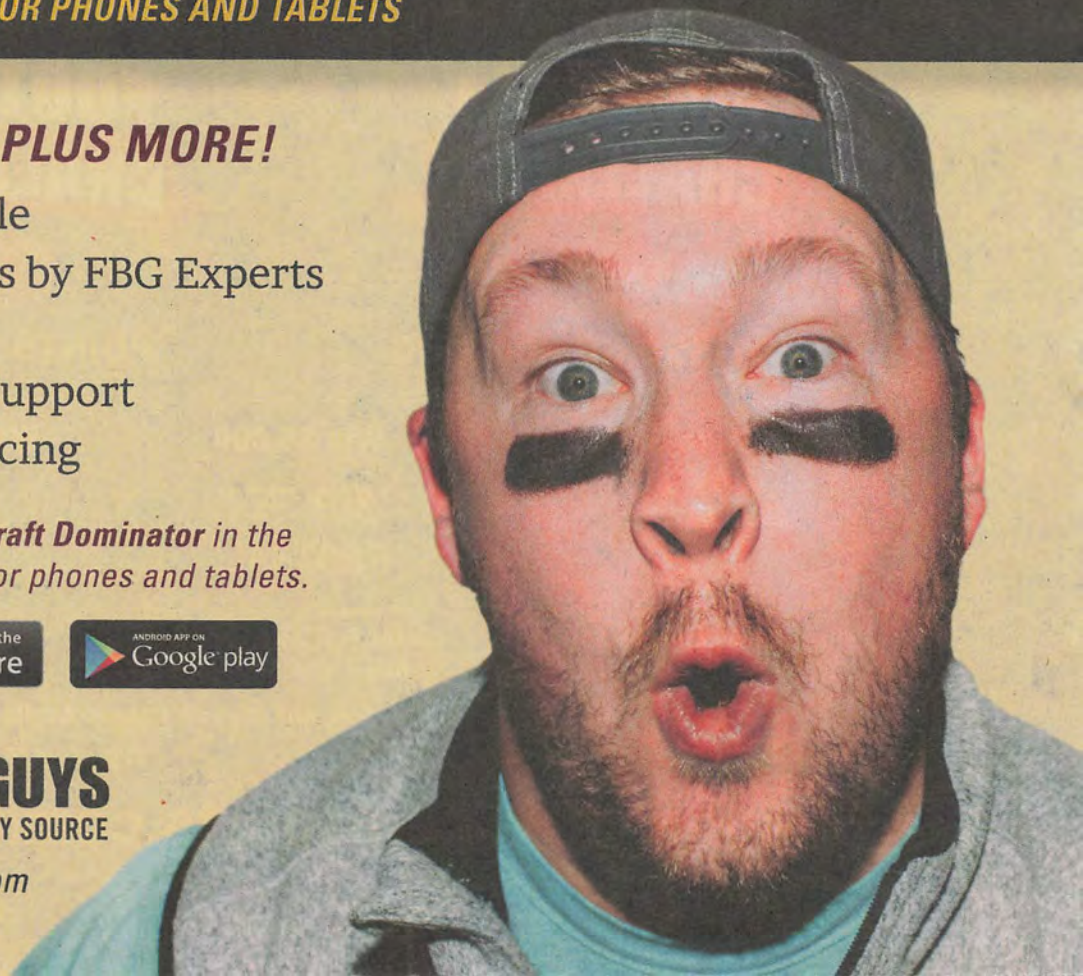


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DeSean Jackson (right) leads the parade of high-profile players joining new teams in 2014. The list includes Chris Johnson, Eric Decker, Stevie Johnson, Michael Vick and dozens more. We assess each team's moves.



50 Fantasy Football Index mock draft

If our experts mock draft reflects broader trends, then three quarterbacks will be picked in rounds 1-3, and after the draft owners will wring their hands over the quarterback steals they could have had in later rounds. Our panel of fantasy experts reflects on the draft's best picks, worst blunders and blown opportunities.

56 Fantasy Football Index mock auction

Matt Ryan (right) and Tom Brady may come cheap this year. Both were named by many experts as Steal of the Draft and Steal of the Auction. Meanwhile, prices paid for top running backs fell again, continuing a years-long trend. The mock auction is useful for draft leagues, too. It offers a truer indication of each player's value. A single believer can tilt a draft, but in an auction at least two bidders push the price on every player.



18 Sleepers, evil anti-sleepers and ultra-deep-sleepers

Robert Griffin III, Chris Johnson, Percy Harvin, Kyle Rudolph, Darren Sproles and Doug Martin (left) appear on our lists of 30 sleeper picks, overrated stars, and end-of-the-draft longshots. But who's on which list?



22 Rookies rated for 2014 – and beyond

Johnny Manziel captured the football world's fancy on draft day, but he isn't even our top-rated quarterback prospect. We are more excited about receivers Sammy Watkins, Mike Evans and Brandin Cooks – and running back Bishop Sankey, who inherits a favorable situation in Tennessee. Includes our dynasty league cheat sheet.

Publisher's note

Arthur C. Clarke never wrote a fantasy football preview. But the author of *2001: A Space Odyssey* was in the business of looking into the future. And he astutely pointed out that if you could predict the future perfectly, nobody would believe you because it would sound so absurd.

"So if what I say now seems to you to be very reasonable, then I'll have failed completely," Clarke said. "Only if what I tell you appears absolutely unbelievable, have we any chance of visualizing the future as it really will happen."

Fantasy football is like that. Heading into last year, nobody thought that Peyton Manning (the oldest QB in the league) would throw 55 touchdowns, or that Zac Stacy (who began the season as a lightly regarded backup) would average a league-high 21 carries per game. If we'd told you Josh Gordon, suspended for the first two games, would lead the league in receiving yards, you would have just laughed.

We can't publish a magazine that reaches the Arthur C. Clarke standard of improbability. We can theorize that Adrian Peterson is more likely to break down than the other blue-chip running backs, but we can't take it to the Clarke level of actually ranking him behind Jerick McKinnon. We're not that good.

We can, however, try to avoid falling into the trap of putting too much weight into what happened last year. If you open our magazine and see a draft board that's too similar to an

Average Draft Position list, you'll know that we've got it wrong.

We've been in this business for 28 years. We've spent tens of thousands of hours reviewing video, analyzing stats and testing theories. And if one truth has been hammered into our helmets, it's the reality that things change. You can't win by simply drafting a bunch of players who would have been really good last year.

If you look at the top 10 running backs or wide receivers in any given year, only about a third of those players will finish in the top 10 again the next season. If you intend to put together a top 10 that's actually correct, a third of the players need to be guys who weren't even in the top 20 the previous year.

We try to always keep in mind that things change, treating this job as a science. Our mission is to take all of the available news and information (who's working with the first-unit offense and who's due to play a lesser role) and combine that with our extensive treasure trove of statistical databases. Following that process should allow us to build a draft board that helps you win games.

We spend about three months carefully researching every player on every team, and at the conclusion of that process, when experts in the fantasy industry begin interacting in mock drafts and experts polls, we learn where our findings are different from the other guys.

Julian Edelman emerges as my No. 1 outlier pick this year. None of the 20 analysts in our experts poll included him in their top 20, but after analyzing him and New England's offense, I believe he's going to be in the top 10. Those using our recommendations won't only draft Edelman, but will have to mull whether they can wait for an extra round or two. He was selected late in the sixth in our Mock Draft (three rounds later than I think he should have gone).

I'm higher on Roddy White, Tom Brady, Lamar Miller, Randall Cobb, Kyle Rudolph, Heath Miller and the New Orleans defense than most other analysts. If you adhere to our draft board, those players will tend to land on your roster, while Jordan Reed, Dennis Pitta, Bishop Sankey, Pierre Garcon, Doug Martin, Zac Stacy and C.J. Spiller will not.

That's the process: scout the players, trust the research, and let the market dictate which players come your way. We don't have a crystal ball that will pinpoint the Arthur C. Clarke players. But we can get closer to the truth with careful study and by being honest in our projections, rather than worrying too much about what happened last year.

As Clarke said, "the only thing we can be sure of about the future is that it will be absolutely fantastic."

— Ian Allan
Publisher

FANTASY FOOTBALL INDEX

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the "help" link at the top of the page.

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Ian Allan's Mailbag

Fantasy Football Index publisher Ian Allan answers hundreds of questions each year on our website. Submit your questions via that Mailbag page at <http://www.fantasyindex.com/mailbag>.

DOES THE SHORTER WORK WEEK DEPRESS SCORING IN THURSDAY NIGHT GAMES?

Q: It seems like Thursday night seems to generate dull, low-scoring games. Should I avoid starting players in those games?

David Doonan

Whidbey Island, Wash.

A: Yes, you might want to avoid players in Thursday games this year – but probably not for the reason you suspect. Thursday games often are lower scoring, but not due to the abbreviated practice week. This is not a Thursday-Sunday issue. Rather it's about divisional games. When teams are familiar with each other, that favors the defense. The NFL Network began broadcasting Thursday games in 2006, and in 41 games between teams from different divisions, an average of 47.6 points have been scored. That's 3.5 more points than the league average. But in 40 divisional games, the scoring average drops to only 40.8. Thursday doesn't seem to play much of a role, because those same teams averaged only 41.0 points when they met in their 40 non-Thursday games in those seasons. For fantasy purposes, when struggling to choose between two similar players, you should avoid the one playing in a divisional game – regardless of whether it occurs on Thursday or Sunday. This year 16 of the 18 scheduled Thursday night games are intra-divisional, so you may be avoiding a lot of Thursday matchups.

THIS LIST IS A CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION.

Q: When I'm picking players for the Silverdale Studmuffins, I always like to grab a few who are in contract years. I feel like those guys try harder. Who are the contract-year players for this year?

Toby Richards

Santa Clara, Calif.

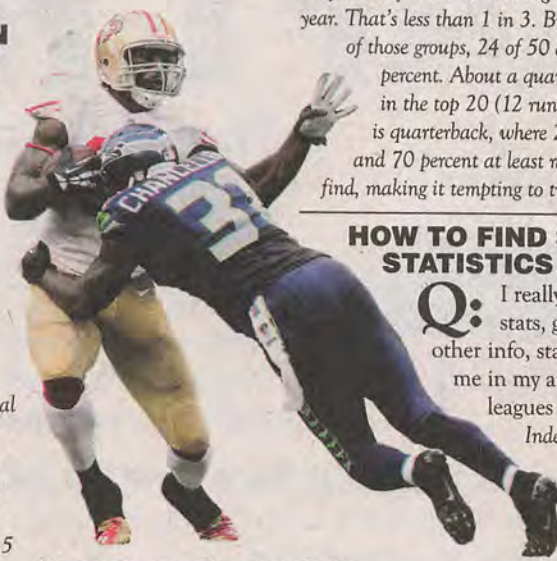
A: I'm listing only the noteworthy guys. **Quarterbacks:** Andy Dalton, Alex Smith, Michael Vick, Jake Locker. **Running backs:** DeMarco Murray, Mark Ingram, Frank Gore, Fred Jackson, BenJarvis Green-Ellis, Knowshon Moreno, Shane Vereen, Stevan Ridley, Darren McFadden, Ryan Mathews, Danny Woodhead, Ahmad Bradshaw. **Wide receivers:** Roddy White, Demaryius Thomas, Dez Bryant, Jordy Nelson, Randall Cobb, Jeremy Maclin, Michael Crabtree, Torrey Smith, Wes Welker, Cecil Shorts III, Denarius Moore, Nate Washington, Hakeem Nicks, Reggie Wayne. **Tight ends:** Julius Thomas, Charles Clay, Kyle Rudolph, Jordan Cameron, Jermaine Gresham.

HAVE RUNNING BACKS BECOME TOO RISKY TO DRAFT IN THE FIRST ROUND?

Q: Taking a look at this year's draft I'm noticing an interesting trend and wanted to get your thoughts. We're in a traditional 12-team league. We have six very good teams and six pretty poor teams. Of the top six there were 3 RBs, 2 QBs, and a WR drafted in the first round. Of the worst six teams, all but one selected a running back in the first round. Do you think this is an anomaly or are RBs becoming a little risky to take in the first round?

Brian Barrett

Boulder, Colo.



Kam Chancellor reminds his pal Vernon Davis that divisional games are low scoring brawls.

A: Running backs are high-risk. That's the nature of the game we play. But if you look at the elite, best-of-the-best at each position, running backs aren't any riskier than wide receivers. Take the top 5 at each position over the last 10 years. Of those 50 running backs, only 15 finished in the top 5 again the next year. That's less than 1 in 3. But it's only 13 of 50 for the wide receivers. For each of those groups, 24 of 50 at least ranked in the top 10, which is about 50 percent. About a quarter of these seemingly elite players didn't even rank in the top 20 (12 running backs, 14 wide receivers). The safest position is quarterback, where 22 of 50 ranked in the top 5 two years in a row and 70 percent at least ranked in the top 10. But quarterbacks are easier to find, making it tempting to try to hit it big on a running back in the first round.

HOW TO FIND SUPERFLOUS DEFENSIVE STATISTICS WE NO LONGER PUBLISH.

Q: I really enjoy your magazine. It is full of useful stats, game-by-game breakdowns, and plenty of other info, stats, and opinions that make a difference for me in my analysis. I am always at or near the top of my leagues in points scored and I credit Fantasy Football Index for a lot of that.

That said, I notice you are no longer including the defensive stats broken down by player on each team. I remember there were a couple pages which laid out each team's defensive player stats along with a short synopsis. It was great for checking out team defensive depth as well as analyzing individual player value for IDP leagues. Please do what you can to bring those pages back in 2014.

Rick Davidson

Twin Cities, Minn.

A: I appreciate the feedback. There are some readers, like yourself, who prefer that format. On the downside, though, we were listing out 11 starters and 3 backups for 32 teams – 448 players – and only small fraction of those guys were actually getting drafted. The wiser course was to forget about the nickel corners and backup linebackers and use that space to explain whether you should be drafting Vontaze Burfict, Kiko Alonso or Lavonte David. For those drafting a whole bunch of individual defensive players (or who just want to look at projected lineups) the stuff we used to print on those pages can be found at our website. Go to our home page and look in the Toolbox (it's located on the right side of the page, and you may need to scroll down about a screen).

NOBODY STOLE YOUR AUCTION PRICE LIST. YOU'RE JUST THAT PREDICTABLE.

Q: At my auction it seemed that everyone had somehow obtained copies of my value board – every player was selling within a buck or two of my max price. Almost no one drastically overpaid for any player. Any thoughts on how to handle that situation? I've never been in an auction like that where there weren't any great values to be had. The only thought I had (after it was over) was to maybe target higher-ceiling guys in the hopes that someone might pop. I'm afraid I now have an average team in a league full of average teams.

Bill Rehor

Culver City, Calif.

A: Everyone's getting better at auctions. Fewer people are jumping in and wildly overpaying for superstars, and everyone's getting a better feel for what players are actually worth. I noticed this a few years ago in the DFL, where we've been auction for about 15 years. It's no longer possible to simply sit quietly for the first couple of rounds, then move in and assemble a star-studded roster at pennies on the dollar. Too many other owners are onto that. And I sensed it was the same this year in the Mock Auction in the magazine (see page 56). Lenny Pappano, Sam Hendricks, Scott Pianowski, David Dodds – we've all been in

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Ian Allan's Mailbag

that league for years, and we're all aware now what other guys are going to pay. The owners are craftier. That league's been around for 10 years. If you look at the first five years, the top running back was always going for over \$70 (\$200 salary cap). Nowadays, the bidding on the No. 1 running back always dies out shortly after \$50. For me, it means that you must be more aware that you'll have to adjust your strategy based on what the others are doing. If the prices are high early, then you'll be able to hang back. But if the spending is sluggish on those initial players, the correct move could be to buy (before the prices go up later).

ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE KICKERS: NO GOOD.

Q: I can't think of anything more frustrating than losing a game because of a kicker. It's the most disrespected position, and always drafted last, but yet the fantasy football community still continues to incorporate them in their leagues. Are we just continuing to include kickers because that's how it's always been? What do you think of Fantasy Football Index being the pioneers on this subject and completely eliminating the kicker position and breakdown from next year's magazine? Many of us would thank you!

Cody Hager
Aloha, Ore.

A: Sorry, man. I love kickers. It's actually my favorite position to scout. I like looking at all the different variables – accuracy from 50-plus, efficiency in the 40-to-49 yard range, touchback rates, etc. It's a position, oddly, where guys get better in their 30s (I think it's kind of like golf, where the mental component becomes more important). And I'm shocked how much they keep improving; it seems like every year there's a new standard set for accuracy, distance and scoring. For fantasy purposes, there's usually more ability to adjust your lineup to connect with a favorable matchup. In typical fantasy leagues, there are usually a few capable kickers who aren't even on teams, so if you scout them properly, you can adjust your roster on a week-to-week basis and add some value to your franchise.

TEAMS ARE SCORING MORE RETURN TDs DESPITE FEWER FUMBLES AND INTs.

Q: What percentage of interceptions are pick-sixes, and what percentage of forced fumbles are taken to the end zone by the recovering defender? Are these percentages increasing relative to past years? Also, I assume kickoff return TDs are nearing all-time lows; what about punt returns?

Peter Chen
Stanford, Calif.

A: It seems like a simple question, but I looked at the league-wide stats for the last 20 years, and a surprising number of noteworthy shifts have occurred. In the last two years, 15 and 13 percent of interceptions have been returned for touchdowns. In each of the previous 18 years, the average was only 9-11 percent. So teams have averaged more touchdowns on interceptions the last two years, even while the number of interceptions has steadily declined from over 17 in the '90s to just over 15 now. I will attribute those changes to the emphasis on eliminating helmet-to-helmet hits and blows against defenseless receivers. Those kind of hits tend to knock the ball loose, but those aren't the kind of interceptions that get returned for touchdowns. Fumbles, oddly, have trended the same way. In the '90s, teams tended to average 12-13 takeaways on fumbles per game. That's fallen to less than 10 over the last three years. But at the same time, almost 10 percent of fumbles last year were returned for touchdowns, the highest rate of this 20-year study. The 3rd-highest return rate came in 2011. My guess is that the same changes with player safety issues are involved; if a safety slams a receiver running a slant route, that tends to knock the ball loose, but those aren't the kind of turnovers that result in touchdowns. With punt returns and kickoff returns, there have been changes restricting how much teams can practice, and how often they can put guys in pads. I believe this has hurt coverage teams. Teams scored on 20 and 18 punt returns in the two seasons prior to last year, two of the three

best seasons of the last 20 years (they were below-average last year). Kick returns performed unusually well in the first year with shortened kickoffs, averaging a touchdown every 107 returns, but they slipped to 1 every 184 returns last year.

IF YOU ASK FOR ANOTHER CHEAT SHEET, WE'LL SEND THE FLYING MONKEYS.

Q: For next year, can you please add a cheat sheet for auction leagues in your magazine? You've got everything else. With the growing popularity of auction leagues, it's about time you added them. Scott Chambers
Highlands Ranch, Colo.

A: Nobody loves auctions more than I do, but as the Wicked Witch of the West once said, "these things must be done delicately." If there are 10 teams and a \$100 salary cap, then there's \$1,000 in play. If it's 12 teams and a \$200 payroll, then we're working with \$2,400. Some leagues combine tight ends and wide receivers. Others don't use defenses. Some have rosters with a half-dozen more players. All of these factors affect the values of all of the players on all of the rosters. So rather than print on paper a list that is only sort-of helpful, I ask that you visit the website. There you can see precise, meaningful player values – accurate right down to the penny. It requires a one-time setup of 3-5 minutes, where you answer a few questions about the structure of your league. To access this feature, go to fantasyindex.com, find "Your Stuff" and select "Scoring System".

ALSHON JEFFERY VS. KEENAN ALLEN.

Q: How do you project Alshon Jeffery long-term? Is he a top-10 receiver in a keeper league? Would you rather have him or Keenan Allen? Chris Thompson
Los Angeles

A: Allen had the nice rookie season – 71 catches for 1,046 yards and 8 TDs – but I don't think he has quite the same ability. Jeffery is an inch taller, 5-10 pounds heavier and maybe a little faster. More notably, I think Chicago's offense is a little better. Marc Trestman is an offensive mastermind, and he tends to build everything around his starting receivers. Jeffery and Brandon Marshall combined for 189 catches last year, 10 more than any other pair of wide receivers. The Chargers, meanwhile, tend to throw a lot of balls to backs and tight ends. Their wide receivers caught only 44 percent of their completions last year, 2nd-lowest percentage in the league. On my board (see page 29) Jeffery is the No. 7 wide receiver, while Allen is down at 14.

Alshon Jeffery plays in a receiver-friendly system in Chicago.

BECAUSE "ANALYSIS" STARTS WITH "ANAL."

Q: What is the general attitude regarding decimal scoring? It seems that leagues are trending that way (our league will begin decimal scoring in 2014), but the purist in me thinks that whole-digit scores are better, and that mucking things up with all this decimal point business makes things look ugly on the scoreboard.

Adam Holtz
Rochester, Minn.

A: On the one hand, it's nice to have clean scores. 83.79 looks better than 83.479.2. On the other hand, if we're using 1 point for every 10 yards, I want the team that finishes with better stats to win. I don't want to see an 84-84 tie if one team finished with 7 more yards. And I don't want to see a team lose with whole-digit scoring if it would have won with the more accurate decimal scoring.



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Offseason Transaction Report

If it wasn't the wildest free agency period ever, it definitely was one of the busiest. Within two days, three different teams signed brand new, top-shelf left tackles, one of the most important (and difficult to fill) positions. Three teams had new starting running backs, half a dozen more had new starting wideouts, and more than a dozen added either a big-name pass rusher or shutdown cornerback.

Bad contracts and salary cap woes fueled the turnover. But one team's trash is another's treasure, and almost all of those discarded veterans found jobs on new teams.

Lest anyone get too caught up in free agent hoopla, though, remember that the draft is still the critical component to building a championship team. Jerry Jones and Dan Snyder have learned the hard way that free agency splashes only go so far. It's in the draft that teams have the chance to obtain players who dramatically outproduce their contracts – those second, third and fourth rounders who become underpaid starters.

We added up all of the offseason moves – the free agents, the rookies and the trades – and gauged which teams seem to be the most improved. In our eyes, it looks like the Buccaneers, Broncos and Saints added the most talent, while Kansas City, Seattle, Cincinnati and Carolina fell off the most.

In the following team-by-team sections, the grades aren't fantasy specific, but instead reflect the difference in each team's overall level of talent. No credit is given for re-signing players or gaining future draft picks, nor are teams penalized for overpaying players. Instead, the grades simply weigh the quality of players added versus the quality of the players lost.

- A – Team significantly better.
- B – Team somewhat improved.
- C – Level of talent essentially unchanged.
- D – Team lost some ground.
- F – Team severely damaged.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Key gains: LT Jared Veldheer (Oak.), WR Ted Ginn (Car.), CB Antonio Cromartie (NYJ), RB Jonathan Dwyer (Pitt.), S Deone Bucannon (1st), TE Troy Niklas (2nd).

Key losses: LB Daryl Washington (suspension), LB Karlos Dansby (Clev.), RB Rashard Mendenhall (retired), WR Andre Roberts (Was.).

B Left tackle has been a problem in Arizona for years, and Veldheer shores that area up. If you toss in Jonathan Cooper (who missed all of his rookie season), Arizona should have the league's most improved offensive line. ... Mendenhall averaged only 3.2 yards per attempt last year; they'll be fine replacing him with Dwyer or Stepfan Taylor. ... Losing two good starting linebackers takes some pop out of what was one of the league's best defenses at the end of last year. Last year's second-rounder Kevin Minter and 34-year-old Larry Foote represent a significant downgrade.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Key gains: OT Jake Matthews (1st), RG Jon Asomoah (K.C.), DT Paul Soliai (Mia.), DE Tyson Jackson (K.C.), RB Devonta Freeman (4th), KR Devin Hester (Chi.).

Key losses: TE Tony Gonzalez (retired), FS Thomas DeCoud (Car.).

B Atlanta desperately needed to upgrade both lines, and handed out huge contracts to Asomoah, Soliai and Jackson to do so. Expensive, but the team will be improved in both areas. Matthews should be the long-term answer at left tackle. ... With Gonzalez retired, Atlanta is going from the top 5 to the bottom 5 at tight end, where Levine Toilolo likely will start. ... Hester has only 1 TD the last two seasons; he's not a top-level returner anymore.

Offseason Report

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Key gains: C Jeremy Zuttah (T.B.), LB C.J. Mosley (1st), WR Steve Smith (Car.), TE Owen Daniels (Hou.), SS Darian Stewart (St.L.).

Key losses: RT Michael Oher (Tenn.), DE Arthur Jones (Ind.), S James Ihedigbo (Det.), CB Corey Graham (Buff.), TE Ed Dickson (Car.).

C-Smith isn't the player he used to be, but the receiving corps should be stronger overall. There's definitely more pass-catching firepower at tight end, with Dennis Pitta healthy and Daniels added as a contributor. ... Don't let his "Blind Side" rep fool you; the Ravens didn't want Oher back. Zuttah is an upgrade at center, but the offensive line is still a major concern for this team.

BUFFALO BILLS

Key gains: WR Sammy Watkins (1st), LB Brandon Spikes (N.E.), WR Mike Williams (T.B.), RB Bryce Brown (Phil.), LB Keith Rivers (NYG), G Chris Williams (St.L.), CB Corey Graham (Balt.), RB Anthony Dixon (S.F.).

Key losses: FS Jairus Byrd (N.O.), WR Stevie Johnson (trade).

CByrd was one of the top handful of defensive free agents, but the Bills have some depth in the secondary. The linebacking corps should be better overall with Spikes in the middle and Kiko Alonso moving outside. ... C.J. Spiller has had a lot of injuries and Fred Jackson is 33, so it made sense to trade for Bryce Brown – he could play a big role for them at some point.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Key gains: WR Kelvin Benjamin (1st), WR Jericho Cotchery (Pitt.), SS Roman Harper (N.O.), FS Thomas DeCoud (Atl.), WR Jason Avant (Phil.).

Key losses: LT Jordan Gross (retired), CB Captain Munnerlyn (Minn.), G Travele Wharton, WR Steve Smith (cut), WR Brandon LaFell (N.E.), WR Ted Ginn (Ariz.), S Mike Mitchell (Pitt.).

FWe're not getting too worked up about Carolina losing its top four wide receivers from last year. Those guys weren't stars. Benjamin-Cotchery-Avant easily could be better than Smith-LaFell-Ginn. ... The big losses here are Gross and Munnerlyn. Gross has been one of the better left tackles for years, and Carolina doesn't have anyone to adequately replace him. Munnerlyn was their best cornerback. Wharton started at guard, and he'll likely also retire.

CHICAGO BEARS

Key gains: DE Jared Allen (Minn.), DE Lamarr Houston (Oak.), DE Willie Young (Det.), FS M.D. Jennings (G.B.), CB Kyle Fuller (1st).

Key losses: DE Julius Peppers (cut), KR Devin Hester (cut), S Major Wright (T.B.), WR Earl Bennett (Clev.).

B+Chicago needed defensive help, and even if the Peppers-Allen swap turns out to be a wash, Houston and perhaps Young should upgrade the defensive line. Jennings struggled in Green Bay last year but gives Chicago another option in the secondary, as does top pick Fuller. Overall the defense should be better, and the offense didn't lose anyone of note.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Key gains: CB Darqueze Dennard (1st), OT Marshall Newhouse (G.B.), S Daniele Manning (Hou.), RB Jeremy Hill (2nd), QB Jason Campbell (Clev.).

Key losses: DE Michael Johnson (T.B.), LT Anthony Collins (T.B.), WR Andrew Hawkins (Clev.).

FThe Bengals didn't really add anybody, and lost a couple of notable players. Johnson is one of the better defensive ends in the game; he's getting over \$8 million per year. Collins isn't great, but he's a credible left tackle. Newhouse replaces Collins on the roster but he was just a backup last year in Green Bay (he started 29 games the previous two seasons). ... Cincinnati also lost both of its coordinators, with Mike Zimmer and Jay Gruden taking head coaching jobs.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Key gains: S Donte Whitner (S.F.), RB Ben Tate (Hou.), LB Karlos Dansby (Ariz.), QB Johnny Manziel (1st), CB Justin Gilbert (1st), WR Andrew Hawkins (Cin.), OT Paul McQuistan (Sea.), WR Miles Austin (Dall.), WR Nate Burleson (Det.), WR Earl Bennett (Chi.).

Key losses: LB D'Qwell Jackson (Ind.), S T.J. Ward (Den.), QB Brandon Weeden (cut), QB Jason Campbell (Cin.), WR Greg Little (cut).

BDansby looks like a slight upgrade over Jackson. Whitner is definitely an upgrade over Ward. ... This grade will drop

to a C if and when it becomes official that Josh Gordon will be suspended for the entire season; he's one of the best receivers in the game. Cleveland signed four receivers in the offseason, but all four of them are best suited to play in the slot, which is odd. ... McQuistan started 14 games for Seattle last year but he's more of a backup-type guy.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Key gains: DT Henry Melton (Chi.), OT Zack Martin (1st), DE Demarcus Lawrence (2nd), G Tyrone Green (N.E.), DE Jeremy Mincey (Den.), QB Brandon Weeden (Clev.).

Key losses: DE DeMarcus Ware (Den.), DT Jason Hatcher (Wash.), WR Miles Austin (cut).

D-The loss of Ware is huge; he's still an elite pass rusher but salary cap constraints forced Dallas to release him when he refused a pay cut. Mincey isn't in the same league, and it's unlikely Lawrence can fill the void. ... Melton comes off injury, but was probably the best tackle available in free agency. He'll help this defense. ... Weeden makes sense; he put up reasonable numbers for the first third of his rookie season before falling apart (and he didn't fit Norv Turner's system last year). ... Green is a sneaky pickup; he was on injured reserve last year, but he was a starter in 2012.

DENVER BRONCOS

Key gains: CB Aqib Talib (N.E.), DE DeMarcus Ware (Dall.), S T.J. Ward (Clev.), WR Emmanuel Sanders (Pitt.), CB Bradley Roby (1st), WR Cody Latimer (2nd).

Key losses: WR Eric Decker (NYJ), RB Knowshon Moreno (Mia.), CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (NYG), G Zane Beadles (Jac.), DE Shaun Phillips (Ten.), LB Wesley Woodyard (Ten.), DE Jeremy Mincey (Dall.), CB Champ Bailey (cut).

A-The Broncos are loading up to make another run at the Super Bowl. Talib and Ware are both older guys, but for the 2014 season, both might be among the top half dozen at the most valuable defensive positions – pass rusher and corner. Ward and Roby should also help the defense. ... The offense loses some ground with Decker and Moreno, but still plenty of weapons to work with on that side of the ball.

DETROIT LIONS

Key gains: WR Golden Tate (Sea.), TE Eric Ebron (1st), S James Ihedigbo (Balt.).

Key losses: WR Nate Burleson (Clev.), S Louis Delmas (Mia.).

BTate is the major reason for Detroit's positive grade; he'll be better than what the Lions could send out as No. 2 the last two years. Toss in Ebron (who's more of a wide receiver than a tight end) and Detroit has a lot more depth in its receiving corps. ... The safety swap is a downgrade for a secondary that couldn't really afford to get worse.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Key gains: DE Julius Peppers (Chi.), S Ha Ha Clinton-Dix (1st).

Key losses: TE Jermaine Finley, WR James Jones (Oak.), S M.D. Jennings (Chi.).

CGreen Bay won't miss Jones; they've got plenty of other wide receivers. ... Finley (neck) likely will be medically cleared, and it's still possible the Packers will re-sign him – they'd like to. ... At 34, Peppers is nearing the end of the road, but Green Bay will use him as a situational pass rusher, and in that more limited role, he could add a dimension to that defense. The Seahawks last year demonstrated the value of rotating pass rushers.

HOUSTON TEXANS

Key gains: DE Jadeveon Clowney (1st), OG Xavier Sua-Filo (2nd), QB Ryan Fitzpatrick (Tenn.), RB Andre Brown (NYG).

Key losses: RB Ben Tate (Clev.), DE Antonio Smith (Oak.), DT Earl Mitchell (Mia.), LB Joe Mays (KC), TE Owen Daniels (cut), QB Matt Schaub (trade), S Daniele Manning (Cin.).

CHouston didn't lose anyone they really wanted, but nor did they do much to upgrade a roster that went 2-14 last year. ... Clowney will need to be a star for the team to be competitive with what looks to be a flawed offense. ... The Texans look particularly weak at quarterback, where they're relying on a trio of guys that most teams wouldn't even want as backups.

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Jackson	Manning	Jackson	Thomas	Vick	Bowe	Stewart	Jackson	Martin	Gore
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Marshall	Davis	Jackson	Best	Williams	Mendenhall	Luck	Green-Ellis	Miller	Bush
Harvin	Maclin	Lloyd	Wayne	Moss	Decker	Johnson	Jones	Hillman	Bush
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Offseason Report

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Key gains: DE Arthur Jones (Balt.), LB D'Qwell Jackson (Clev.), WR Hakeem Nicks (NYG), OT Jack Mewhort (2nd).

Key losses: RB Donald Brown (S.D.), SS Antonio Bethea (S.F.), G Mike McGlynn (Wash.), CB Cassius Vaughn (Det.).

B- Indianapolis is hoping Nicks can get back to playing at a Pro Bowl level, but he really tailed off the last two years in New York. He seems to have lost a step. This same personnel team missed last year when it signed Darrius Heyward-Bey. ... Jackson seems to be a productive linebacker, but he's on the downside. Jones will also help the front seven. ... Lower them a little more if you want to include Robert Mathis being suspended for four games. He had 19.5 sacks last year.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Key gains: RB Toby Gerhart (Minn.), DE Chris Clemons (Sea.), DE Red Bryant (Sea.), LG Zane Beadles (Den.), QB Blake Bortles (1st), DE Ziggy Hood (Pitt.).

Key losses: RB Maurice Jones-Drew (Oak.), C Brad Meester (retired), G Will Rackley (Balt.), WR Justin Blackmon (suspended).

B+ We can't find fault with any of Jacksonville's moves. The defensive front can't help but be better after plucking a pair of linemen from the world champions. Beadles is a solid guard who will help the blocking up front. And Gerhart looks like a decent-enough running back – probably better than Jones-Drew. ... The team doesn't want Bortles to have to play this season. ... The Blackmon suspension forced the team to burn two more second-round picks on wide receivers.

KANSAS CITY

Key gains: OL Jeff Linkenbach (Ind.), LB Joe Mays (Hou.), DE Dee Ford (1st), DT Vance Walker (Oak.).

Key losses: LT Brandon Albert (Mia.), G Jon Asamoah (Atl.), G Geoff Schwartz (NYG), DE Tyson Jackson (Atl.), SS Kendrick Lewis (Hou.), LB Akeem Jordan (Wash.), WR Dexter McCuller (Tenn.).

F Kansas City has some depth on the offensive line, but it's tough to see them replacing three key players without taking a hit in that area. Asamoah and Schwartz shared a starting job last year. Kansas City needs the top pick from last year, Eric Fisher, to adequately replace Albert at left tackle. ... Jackson is the biggest defensive loss; the Falcons signed him to a contract worth \$5 million per year. The others signed one-year deals for under \$1 million, but they started some games last year.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Key gains: LT Brandon Albert (K.C.), FS Louis Delmas (Det.), RB Knowshon Moreno (Den.), G Shelley Smith (St.L.), DT Earl Mitchell (Hou.), CB Cortland Finnegan (St.L.), OT Ja'Wuan James (1st).

Key losses: DT Paul Soliai (Atl.), G Richie Incognito, G John Jerry (NYG), OT Jonathan Martin (S.F.), CB Nolan Carroll (Phil.).

B+ Miami had a bottom-10 rushing offense and gave up 8 more sacks than any other team, not to mention dealing with an off-field controversy you may have read about. The offensive line will be significantly better. Moreno should help the ground game, although it's telling that nobody else showed much interest in signing him. ... Delmas will help the secondary, but Finnegan's best football is behind him.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Key gains: DT Linval Joseph (NYG), CB Captain Munnerlyn (Car.), QB Teddy Bridgewater (1st), LB Anthony Barr (1st), CB Derek Cox (S.D.).

Key losses: DE Jared Allen (Chi.), RB Toby Gerhart (Jac.), CB Chris Cook (S.F.), LB Erin Henderson (cut), DT Kevin Williams (Sea.).

C+ Considering the Vikings have a new head coach, they didn't make as many changes as you might expect. Joseph is the headliner; a defensive tackle whose contract averages just over \$6 million per year. Munnerlyn is an above-average corner-

back. But that's it. And the Vikings lost a couple of pretty good players. Allen is aging but can still get after the quarterback. Gerhart was one of the better No. 2 tailbacks around (he'll start in Jacksonville). That loss will become more apparent if Adrian Peterson gets hurt.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Key gains: CB Darrelle Revis (T.B.), CB Brandon Browner (Sea.), WR Brandon LaFell (Car.), DE Will Smith (N.O.), S Patrick Chung (Phil.), DT Dominique Easley (1st).

Key losses: CB Aqib Talib (Den.), LB Brandon Spikes (Buff.), RB LeGarrette Blount (Pitt.).

B The Patriots lost Talib, but they were able to replace him with Revis, who might be even better. They also added Browner, who's good enough to start once he completes his four-game league suspension. ... LaFell disappointed in Carolina; he'll probably be just a depth guy here. ... Blount was New England's best running back at the end of last season, but the team has plenty of depth at that position. ... The Patriots probably will add a tight end before camp opens. They worked out Dustin Keller and Jermichael Finley.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Key gains: S Jairus Byrd (Buff.), WR Brandin Cooks (1st), CB Champ Bailey (Den.), C Jonathan Goodwin (S.F.).

Key losses: RB Darren Sproles (trade), DE Will Smith (N.E.), FS Malcolm Jenkins (Phil.), SS Roman Harper (Car.), OT Charles Brown, C Brian de la Puente (Chi.), WR Lance Moore (Pitt.).

A- New Orleans should be just fine with young, in-house replacements taking over for Sproles and Moore. ... Byrd could add a dimension to the defense. The Saints had a good pass rush last year but didn't have enough playmaking in the secondary. They should get a lot more big plays with Byrd roaming back there. He might make the biggest impact of any defensive free agent. ... Bailey doesn't have much left but was better than expected in Denver last year.

NEW YORK GIANTS

Key gains: RB Rashad Jennings (Oak.), WR Odell Beckham (1st), CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (Den.), G John Jerry (Mia.), OL Geoff Schwartz (K.C.), OT Charles Brown (N.O.), CB Walter Thurmond III (Sea.), DE Robert Ayers (Den.), LB Jameel McClain (Balt.), FS Quintin Demps (K.C.), KR Trindon Holliday (Den.).

Key losses: DE Justin Tuck (Oak.), DT Linval Joseph (Minn.), RB Andre Brown (Hou.), WR Hakeem Nicks (Ind.), TE Brandon Myers (T.B.).

B+ The Giants were one of the most active teams in free agency, signing at least 15 players who played for other teams last year. Most are the lower-priced, bargain-type guys. ... New York's offensive line was a disaster last year, and they went after that area. Brown, Jerry and Schwartz aren't great players, but they all started last year. ... Rodgers-Cromartie is a big upgrade in the secondary. ... As poorly as Nicks played last year, the receiving corps should be better without him.

NEW YORK JETS

Key gains: WR Eric Decker (Den.), RB Chris Johnson (Tenn.), QB Michael Vick (Phil.), TE Jace Amaro (2nd), S Calvin Pryor (1st), OT Breno Giacomini (Sea.), CB Dimitri Patterson (Mia.).

Key losses: OT Austin Howard (Oak.). Cut: CB Antonio Cromartie, WR Santonio Holmes, QB Mark Sanchez.

B Decker is better than any wideout the Jets have put on the field in recent years. We're less confident whether the team will be able to take advantage of that ability, but at least the potential is there. He might be catching passes from Vick at some point during the season. ... Johnson still has enough talent to help the running game. ... Cromartie's departure was contract related; the defense will be weaker there.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Key gains: LB Khalil Mack (1st), WR James Jones (G.B.), QB Matt Schaub (Hou.), LT Donald Penn (T.B.), CB Tarell Brown (S.F.), DE Justin Tuck (NYG), DE LaMarr Woodley (Pitt.), RB Maurice Jones-Drew (Jac.), DE Antonio Smith (Hou.), OL Austin Howard (NYJ), QB Derek Carr (2nd), CB Carlos Rogers (S.F.).

Key losses: RB Rashad Jennings (NYG), LT Jared Veldheer (Ariz.), DE Lamarr Houston (Chi.), CB Mike Jenkins (T.B.), DT Vance Walker (K.C.), CB Tracy Porter (Wash.).

DOne school of thought is that the Raiders signed older players to help them compete in the short term while building long-term with draft picks. If so, why are the older players mostly ones nobody else wanted? And why not retain building blocks like Veldheer and Houston? The offense badly needs Schaub and Jones-Drew to put together bounce-back seasons, but that doesn't look likely.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Key gains: LB Marcus Smith (1st), CB Nolan Carroll (Mia.), WR Jordan Matthews (2nd), FS Malcolm Jenkins (N.O.), RB Darren Sproles (N.O.), QB Mark Sanchez (NYJ).

Key losses: WR DeSean Jackson (cut), QB Michael Vick (NYJ), RB Bryce Brown (trade), WR Jason Avant (cut), FS Patrick Chung (N.E.).

DPhiladelphia locked up several of its own players with long-term deals, while adding veterans who won't be difference-makers or even major contributors. ... Releasing Jackson looks like a huge gamble. Jeremy Maclin returns from an injury, but the Eagles don't have a receiver who can get down the field like Jackson did – he averaged 16.2 yards per catch on his 82 receptions last year.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Key gains: FS Mike Mitchell (Car.), DE Ryan Shazier (1st), RB LeGarrette Blount (N.E.), WR Lance Moore (N.O.), LB Arthur Moats (Buff.), WR Darrius Heyward-Bey (Ind.).

Key losses: WR Emmanuel Sanders (Den.), DE Ziggy Hood (Jac.), S Ryan Clark (Wash.), LB LaMarr Woodley (Oak.), WR Jericho Cotchery (Car.), RB Jonathan Dwyer (Ariz.).

C-The Steelers view Mitchell as an upgrade over Clark, who's in his 12th year. They signed him, then Clark moved on. ... Blount could be a valuable pickup. Should LeVeon Bell get hurt, there now won't be much of a dropoff there. ... We've listed Moore and Heyward-Bey, but those guys shouldn't play significant roles – they're insurance policies should Marcus Wheaton fail to emerge in his second year.

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Key gains: OL Greg Robinson (1st), DT Aaron Donald (1st), OG Davin Joseph (T.B.), RB Tre Mason (3rd), WR Kenny Britt (Tenn.), QB Shaun Hill (Det.).

Key losses: QB Kellen Clemens (S.D.), G Shelley Smith (Mia.), CB Cortland Finnegan (Mia.), G Chris Williams (Buff.), SS Darian Stewart (Balt.).

C+The Rams ran the ball pretty well in the second half of last year, and it looks like they could build on that. The offensive line should be better with Robinson and Joseph. Robinson will start at guard, and eventually move to left tackle. Joseph in the not-to-distant past was considered one of the league's very best guards. They also added Mason in the third round, giving themselves more big-play ability out of the backfield.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Key gains: RB Donald Brown (Ind.), CB Jason Verrett (1st), QB Kellen Clemens (St.L.).

Key losses: QB Charlie Whitehurst (Ten), WR Lavelle Hawkins (T.B.).

B-Setting aside quarterback scrambles, only three teams ran for more yards than the Chargers last year. The Brown pickup gives them a chance to keep that kind of production rolling should Ryan Mathews miss some games. Brown is a lot better than the previous Brown (Ronnie) they had in that role. ... You could also arguably call Malcom Floyd a gain, since he missed 14 games last year with a neck injury. He could be a nice deep threat for them.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Key gains: SS Antoine Bethea (Ind.), CB Chris Cook (Minn.), WR Stevie Johnson (Buff.), RB Carlos Hyde (2nd), S Jimmie Ward (1st), QB Blaine Gabbert (Jac.).

Key losses: SS Donte Whitner (Clev.), CB Tarell Brown (Oak.), RB Anthony Dixon (Buff.), CB Carlos Rogers (cut), C Jonathan Goodwin (cut).

C-The contracts suggest San Francisco's secondary won't be as good. Over the next four years, Whitner will make \$6 million more than Bethea, while Brown will make almost \$3 million more than Cook this year. Cook didn't intercept a pass in four years with the Vikings. ... Stevie Johnson has some ability, but he doesn't really fit this offense. The 49ers don't use many three-receiver sets, and they already have a pair of slower veteran receivers. They would have been better adding a third receiver with some speed. ... The grade needs to be lowered if you want to start figuring on NaVorro Bowman (knee) maybe not being himself all year and Aldon Smith potentially being suspended for a month.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Key gains: WR Paul Richardson (2nd), QB Terrelle Pryor (Oak.).

Key losses: WR Golden Tate (Det.), OT Breno Giacomini (NYJ), DE Red Bryant (Jac.), DE Chris Clemons (Jac.), OT Paul McQuistan (Clev.), DT Clinton McDonald (T.B.), CB Brandon Browner (N.E.), CB Walter Thurmond (NYG), FS Chris Maragos (Jac.).

FThe Seahawks had the deepest roster in the NFL last year, and that got chipped away at in the offseason. They didn't have any killer losses (they'll be fine without Tate) but they lost close to a dozen contributor-type guys. Giacomini and McQuistan are ordinary blockers, but they started most of last year. The Seahawks like to rotate their defensive lineman, and that now becomes harder. Seattle had a nice offseason, re-signing Michael Bennett and giving extensions to Richard Sherman and Anthony Thomas. But those aren't factored into the grade – we're looking just at talent gained and lost.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Key gains: CB Alterraun Verner (Tenn.), DE Michael Johnson (Cin.), LT Anthony Collins (Cin.), QB Josh McCown (Chi.), WR Mike Evans (1st), TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins (2nd), C Evan Dietrich-Smith (G.B.), SS Major Wright (Chi.), CB Mike Jenkins (Oak.), DT Clinton McDonald (Sea.), TE Brandon Myers (NYG).

Key losses: LT Donald Penn (Oak.), C Jeremy Zuttah (trade), CB Darrelle Revis (N.E.), G Davin Joseph (cut).

AThe Bucs are serious about getting better in a hurry. Verner was one of the elite cornerbacks on the market, and Johnson was the best defensive end. Toss in a starting left tackle, a new quarterback and a dozen lesser guys, and it's clear Tampa Bay is looking to be this year's version of Kansas City (which went from last place to the playoffs). The Bucs also lost some good players, but the talent level on that roster went way up.

TENNESSEE TITANS

Key gains: RB Bishop Sankey (2nd), OT Taylor Lewan (1st), OT Michael Oher (Balt.), RB Dexter McCluster (K.C.), DE Shaun Phillips (Den.), LB Wesley Woodyard (Den.), QB Charlie Whitehurst (S.D.).

Key losses: RB Chris Johnson (cut), CB Alterraun Verner (T.B.), QB Ryan Fitzpatrick (Hou.).

D-Sankey, the first running back drafted, replaces Johnson. He's younger and cheaper; only question is how long it takes for him to get comfortable with the speed of the NFL game. ... Jake Locker has been injury prone and inconsistent, so it's surprising that Tennessee is apparently going with Charlie Whitehurst as its backup quarterback. Whitehurst worked with Ken Whisenhunt in San Diego last year, so he's got some knowledge of the system, but he really struggled when Seattle tried to use him.

WASHINGTON

Key gains: WR DeSean Jackson (Phil.), S Ryan Clark (Pitt.), LB Akeem Jordan (K.C.), WR Andre Roberts (Ariz.), DE Jason Hatcher (Dal.), G Shawn Lauvao (Clev.), CB Tracy Porter (Oak.), G Mike McGlynn (Ind.).

Key losses: WR Josh Morgan (Chi.), TE Fred Davis, DE Adam Carriker (cut).

BJackson is the key signing, a difference-making downfield receiver that should help make the offense better. Otherwise, Washington appeared to add mostly mediocre players to areas of need and won't necessarily be better anywhere. Roberts might not have been signed had the team known it was going to get Jackson.

Sleepers,

TEN SLEEPERS TO REMEMBER ON DRAFT DAY

Markus Wheaton, Steelers. Don't judge Wheaton by what he did as a rookie (he caught only 6 passes). Judge him by how the Steelers responded in the offseason when Emmanuel Sanders signed with Denver. They did very little, signing Lance Moore and Darrius Heyward-Bey to low-money deals. They're counting on their third-round pick coming on strong, and that's been a time-tested formula for them. Antonio Brown, Hines Ward, Plaxico Burress and Nate Washington all did very little in their first years – none of them caught a touchdown – and then went on to have successful careers. Wheaton should do the same.

Brandon Bolden, Patriots. Bolden is a carbon copy of BenJarvus Green-Ellis. They both made New England's roster as undrafted free agents out of Mississippi. They're not fast enough. But they run hard, and they both realize that the way to win Bill Belichick's heart is by not fumbling. Bolden's first two seasons have been better than Green-Ellis'; he ran for more yards and averaged a yard more per attempt. It was in Year 3 that Green-Ellis broke through with 13 touchdowns, and Bolden has the same kind of potential.

Zach Ertz, Eagles. Philadelphia released DeSean Jackson, so others will need to assume a bigger role in the passing game. Ertz should be one of those guys. He had a solid rookie season, and he was playing a bigger role at the end of the season – all 5 TDs he caught came in the final nine games.

Khiry Robinson, Saints. Bill Parcells got Sean Payton on the phone at the end of the regular season and asked him why he wasn't using Robinson more. Robinson, the Hall of Fame coach says, looks like he could be another Curtis Martin. Payton then played Robinson more, and he responded, with 21 carries for 102 yards and a touchdown in the two playoff games. He might be their best running back this year. He runs harder than Pierre Thomas, and he's a much better pass catcher than Mark Ingram.

Justin Hunter, Titans. Hunter mostly annoyed Tennessee's coaching staff as a rookie. He wasn't even active at the start of the year, and they benched him in December. But he's got rare talent – a rangy 6-foot-4 speedster with a 39-inch vertical. Despite hardly playing in his first year, he still caught touchdowns of 34, 41 and 51 yards. He's a gamble pick, but Hunter could be Tennessee's No. 1 deep threat and the guy they feature on lob-type throws around the end zone.

Bryce Brown, Bills. Philadelphia's coaches didn't like him: too many fumbles and too much freelancing. But he has talent. He and Adrian Peterson are the only running backs who've scored on 65-plus yard touchdown runs two years in a row (and Brown has done it while hardly playing). Buffalo ranked 2nd in the league in rushing last year and uses a two-back system, so all that's standing between Brown and some sweet production is an injury to Fred Jackson or C.J. Spiller. Jackson is 33, and Spiller has been injury prone.

Kyle Rudolph, Vikings. Rudolph was struggling last year even before he missed the second half of the season with a broken foot, but we're choosing to lay the blame at the feet of scatter-armed Christian Ponder. In Rudolph's one game with Matt Cassel (who should handle most of the quarterbacking this season) he caught 9 passes for 97 yards and a touchdown. Purely on talent, Rudolph is one of the top handful of tight ends in the league; he was the Pro Bowl MVP a year ago. They should make better use of him this season.

Robert Griffin III, Washington. He hardly could have played worse last season, but help is on the way for RG3. Washington signed DeSean Jackson, giving it one of the best receiving corps in the league, and Jay Gruden might be able to put together a more passer-friendly scheme. Gruden helped make Andy Dalton look good in Cincinnati. Griffin is also now a full year away from reconstructive knee surgery. He should be a step faster on scrambles.

Christine Michael, Seahawks. Robert Turbin is an above-average backup, but Michael is far more talented. With his speed and explosiveness, eventually he'll be an above-average starter. Marshawn Lynch is a violent runner who takes a beating, so there's a good chance one of these runners at some point this year will be filling in and putting up top-10 numbers.

Andrew Hawkins, Browns. Hawkins is a former CFL player who hardly played last year for Cincinnati, and at only 5-foot-7 and 180 pounds, he looks best suited to be a slot receiver. But the Browns really like him. They lured him out of Cincinnati with a four-year contract worth \$13.6 million. With Josh Gordon likely suspended for the entire year and all of the team's other receivers being pokey old veterans, he'll probably be their top pass catcher. Brian Hoyer used to play for the Patriots and says Hawkins reminds him of Wes Welker.

OVERRATED: TEN PLAYERS WHO WILL BE DRAFTED TOO EARLY

Knowshon Moreno, Dolphins. Miami is going to a more run-oriented scheme, and it signed Moreno with the intention that he'd come in and start. This is all good, but Moreno showed up at his initial practices hopelessly out of shape. He didn't work at all with the first-team offense, and you have to wonder if he'll even be a starter on opening day.

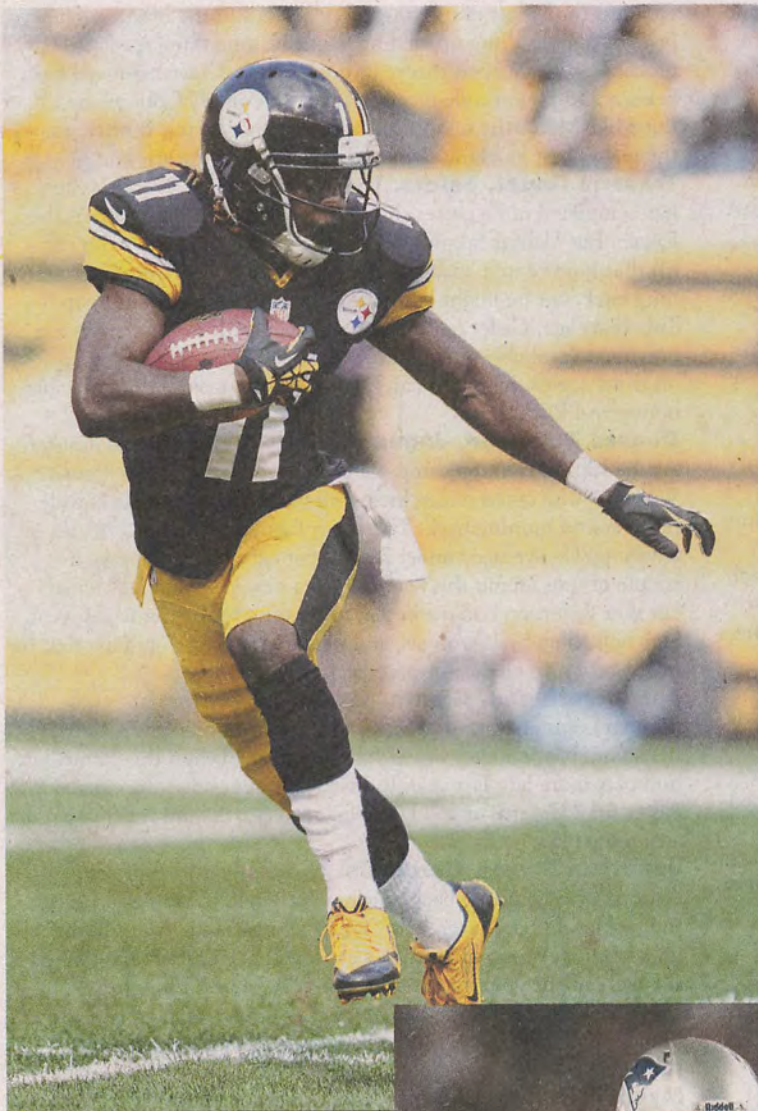
Chris Johnson, Jets. Johnson should bust some long runs and add a dimension to a stodgy offense, but it will be hard for him to be a consistent producer. The best fantasy backs tend to be the guys who are punching in 1- and 2-yard touchdowns every week. Johnson isn't a good inside runner, so the Jets almost certainly will replace him with Chris Ivory for those plays. They'll also probably sub in Bilal Powell for a lot of third-down work, leading us to believe Johnson will be one of the most overvalued players at his position.

Percy Harvin, Seahawks. You saw the speed in the Super Bowl. Harvin gains 30 yards on a jet sweep. Harvin returns a kickoff 87 yards for a touchdown. But Harvin can't stay healthy; he's missed 25 games in five years. And with the way the Seahawks run their offense, he has no chance of catching 80 passes anyway. Seattle has a conservative, run-oriented attack, and when it passes, the ball tends to get spread around to a host of receivers.

Ben Tate, Browns. What was the thinking in signing Tate? He's been just OK as a runner, and he's really struggled in the passing game, averaging under 5 yards per reception two years in a row. More notably, he hasn't been able to stay healthy, missing 24 games in four years. We get the feeling the Browns will turn to rookie Terrance West before long.

Ladarius Green, Chargers. Green is a neat player. He ran a 4.53 at the combine, and they were able to get him deep for some big plays last year. He averaged 22.1 yards per catch. But there's been

Busts, Hidden Gems



Clockwise from above, sleeper Markus Wheaton, bust Chris Johnson and hidden gem Aaron Dobson.

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Sleepers, Busts, Hidden Gems

little indication he's going to be more than that anytime soon. He's too lean to be used as a regular starting tight end, and they've made little effort to use him on shorter pass patterns (like around the goal line). Green will be selected in every league by somebody hoping he moves up to 60 catches and 8 TDs, but that doesn't look likely.

Darren Sproles, Eagles. Sproles is a nifty third-down back; he caught 232 passes in his three years with the Saints. But at 31, he's lost some explosiveness, and his playing style doesn't seem to mesh with Philadelphia's offense. They've been more about trying to stretch defenses from side to side with their running game, then hitting vertical passes. Sproles tends to catch dumpoff balls, but that hasn't been a big part of this system.

Emmanuel Sanders, Broncos. Sanders doesn't look like a good replacement for Eric Decker. He's 4 inches shorter, making him less appealing on the vertical routes down the sidelines. Second-rounder Cody Latimer (once he's up to speed) looks like a better fit for that position, so Sanders' real value could be as their slot receiver if and when Wes Welker breaks down.

Anquan Boldin, 49ers. Boldin put San Francisco's passing offense on his back last year – the only player to catch over a third of his team's completions. But it's a deeper, better receiving corps now. Michael Crabtree will be available for the full season, Quinton Patton is healthy, and San Francisco traded for Stevie Johnson. Colin Kaepernick won't have to lean on Boldin like he did last year.

Joseph Fauria, Lions. Fauria caught 7 touchdowns last year as a red-zone specialist. He's 6-foot-7, so he'd split out as a wide receiver and catch lob balls. But that was a different coaching staff and a different offense. The Lions used their first-round pick on another light-blocking tight end who prefers to line up as a wide receiver (Eric Ebron). That has us wondering if Fauria will even make the team.

Hakeem Nicks, Colts. Indianapolis hopes a change in scenery can get him back on track, but this is the same franchise that signed Darrius Heyward-Bey last year. And traded a first-round pick for Trent Richardson. Nicks seems to have lost a step. He's not getting open like he did in the past, and he's not outfighting defensive backs for the 50-50 balls.

Doug Martin, Bucs. Martin is fully recovered from the shoulder injury that sidelined him last year, but his job description has changed. He's not going to be a one-man show like he was back in 2012. Mike James is a rugged inside banger; he should be their goal-line back. And Charles Sims catches the ball really well; he'll probably play on at least some passing downs.

THE BEST PLAYERS WHO WON'T EVEN BE DRAFTED IN MOST LEAGUES

Aaron Dobson, Patriots. New England has Julian Edelman, and it signed Brandon LaFell. It also has Danny Amendola, Kenbrell Thompkins and Josh Boyce coming back from last year. With that considerable smokescreen, Dobson will be overlooked by most fantasy franchises. But our expectation is he'll start, and 900-plus yards and 7-plus TDs could follow. In an injury-marred rookie season, he caught 22 passes for 325 yards and 3 TDs in a five-game stretch in the middle of the year.

DeAnthony Thomas, Kansas City. Dexter McCluster signed with Tennessee, but their fourth-round pick might be just as good in that role. He's not as experienced, but he's a little faster. He might return a couple of kicks for touchdowns, run for 200-300 yards and maybe catch 50 passes. Makes sense with a late-round pick in a PPR format.

Brandon Bostick, Packers. He might wind up being Green Bay's tight end. Jermichael Finley is a question after multiple neck injuries, and Bostick is a lot faster and more athletic than Andrew Quarless (and most of the starting tight ends in the league). They've just got to polish him up, and he might be something special. That probably won't happen this year; Bostick is two years removed from being a 230-pound wide receiver at tiny Newberry College (S.C.). But Mike McCarthy said in the offseason that he felt Bostick was the team's best blocking tight end at the end of the season.

Travaris Cadet, Saints. Three years in a row, New Orleans has completed more passes to running backs than any team in the league. But Darren Sproles is gone, so it needs someone who can fill that kind of role. Cadet is probably only their fourth-best running back, but he might be the most Sproles-like of that group.

Two years ago, Cadet led the entire league with 30 catches in the preseason (probably an all-time record). If he becomes a big option on third downs, he might catch 50-60 passes, making him a viable option in PPR leagues.

Denard Robinson, Jaguars. His rookie season was a disaster. At the start of training camp, they were calling him an "Offensive Weapon" who could return kicks and line up at quarterback, wide receiver and running back. Then they figured out he couldn't do anything. He averaged under 2 yards per carry until he broke a couple of runs late in the year. But it's a new year, and let's remember that Robinson had never played running back prior to last year. He's bulked up by 15 pounds, and they're not giving up hope that he might be a nice change-of-pace back for them.

Jerrel Jernigan, Giants. New York has Victor Cruz and the two Louisiana State youngsters, Rueben Randle and Odell Beckham, but Jernigan was awfully impressive when the Giants let him play more late last year. In his final three games, he caught 19 passes for 237 yards and 2 TDs, plus scored a 49-yard touchdown on a running play.

Jonathan Dwyer, Cardinals. Andre Ellington will be Arizona's best running back, but he's too small to be used between the tackles. Enter Dwyer, who's a 229-pound banger who played under Bruce Arians when they were together in Pittsburgh. When the ball's at the goal line, it should be Dwyer, not Ellington, who's their main running back. Another former Steeler, Rashard Mendenhall, parlayed a similar role into 8 TDs for the Cardinals last year.

Mychal Rivera, Raiders. As a rookie, Rivera put together a credible season in a lost cause – 38 catches and 4 TDs. He's been around for a year now, and he could benefit from the addition of Matt Schaub. Schaub always liked to throw to his tight ends in Houston, especially around the end zone. Over the last three years, both the Texans and Raiders have thrown exactly 61 touchdown passes, but Houston's tight ends have outscored Oakland's 28-13.

C.J. Anderson, Broncos. Montee Ball is Denver's starting tailback, and he should put up good numbers, given the infrastructure around him. But he's a pretty ordinary back, and their other runner, Ronnie Hillman, has fumbled too much. Anderson might get to start some games at some point, and any back who would, would be successful in that high-powered offense.

Travis Kelce, Kansas City. Anthony Fasano moves like he's made of concrete, so Andy Reid could be ready to start transitioning Kelce at tight end. He missed almost all of his rookie season with a knee injury, but he's got much better hands and speed. Kelce caught 45 passes and 8 TDs his final year at Cincinnati, averaging a nifty 16 yards per catch.

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2014 ROOKIES DIAPER DANDIES OR DUDS?

Everyone seems to agree that this is one of the deepest and best draft classes ever. Eight years from now, we might all be looking back at the heralded draft class of 2014.

But that's real-life football. For fantasy purposes – skill guys – this looks like a pretty typical draft.

There's not a lot of sizzle at running back, where they didn't start coming off the board until late in the second round. No rookie runner is likely to put up numbers as good as we saw last year out of Eddie Lacy, Giovani Bernard and LeVeon Bell.

The quarterbacks look below average, where three went in the first round but none are locks for success. History indicates that at least two of those guys will go down as blown picks.

The class of tight ends looks pretty average. One was selected in the top 10, but only three more were chosen before the end of the second round.

It's at wide receiver where there's nice quality and depth. Three went in the top 12, and another nine were chosen before the end of the second round. Never before have 12 receivers been picked in the first two rounds of a draft. Some of those guys will flame out, of course, but there should be a nice batch of contributors in there.

The following rankings are based not on this season (like the rest of the magazine) but on their entire careers. More weight is given to the 2014-2016 seasons, but this is how we expect they'll perform over about the next seven years.

QUARTERBACK

1. Blake Bortles, Jaguars

Sometimes it's best to let the NFL scouts do the work for you. If any teams truly believed Johnny Manziel or Teddy Bridgewater would develop into franchise quarterbacks, they wouldn't have lasted until late in the first round. In the last 20 years, 13 quarterbacks have been selected in the second half of the first round, and only two of those picks hit it big (Aaron Rodgers and Joe Flacco).

With that in mind, Bortles is the easy choice. The Jaguars thought he was the best player in the entire draft. We know that Arizona liked Bortles more than the others. We don't know how many other teams would have selected him in the top 5-15 picks, but we at least know they all passed on Manziel and Bridgewater.

Jacksonville's taking it nice and slow with their prized rookie. GM Dave Caldwell says their plan is to play Chad Henne for all of this year. But that's fine. Better to develop him properly, rather than throwing him to the wolves before he's ready and having his confidence ripped out. He's more unpolished than a typical first-round quarterback; he'll get himself in trouble by hanging onto the ball too long and forcing throws.

Physically, Bortles looks like a slightly more mobile version

Bishop Sankey should benefit from running behind a Tennessee offensive line that keeps getting better.

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2014 ROOKIES

of Ben Roethlisberger. He's got the arm strength to make all the downfield throws, and he should post above-average rushing numbers. He scored 14 touchdowns on his own in his final two years at Central Florida.

2. Johnny Manziel, Browns

Johnny Football looks like some kind of mix of Fran Tarkenton, Brett Favre and Ryan Leaf. There's great scrambling and playmaking ability, but there's also enough question marks and distractions that ultimately, the most polarizing prospect ever drafted looks more likely to implode than hit it big.

Manziel has that Favre-like ability to ad-lib into big plays when everything around him is crumbling. He's a riverboat gambler who sees things that other quarterbacks don't. It's that quality that makes it reasonable to wonder if teams made a mistake letting him slip to the 22nd pick of the draft.

But while Manziel is a nifty scrambler, some of that won't translate to the NFL. He's actually not that fast (he runs a 4.66, which is a tenth slower than Russell Wilson), and he exposes himself to way too many hard hits. He also tends to run too often, rather than simply executing the designed play.

It's also fair to wonder if Manziel has the right mindset and work ethic. If a report leaked onto the Internet is accurate, New England's scouts don't think he works hard enough or responds to coaching. Days after telling everyone in Cleveland how he planned to go to work and keep a low profile, he hopped on a plane to party with Rob Gronkowski in Las Vegas. That brought back memories of Ryan Leaf, who delayed his initial press conference with San Diego so he could attend a bachelor party in Vegas. Buyer beware.

3. Teddy Bridgewater, Vikings

Bridgewater is essentially interchangeable with Manziel. Even the Browns weren't sure which quarterback to take. Joe Banner spent \$100,000 on a study of quarterbacks – size, intelligence, experience, etc. – and it concluded that Bridgewater will be a better quarterback than either Manziel or Bortles. But then the Browns fired Banner, ignored that study and took Manziel anyway.

Between the ears, Bridgewater looks like the best of these quarterbacks right now. He ran a complex, pro-style system at Louisville, and he was calling audibles and making adjustments at the line of scrimmage. He completed 71 percent of his passes last year, with a 31-4 ratio of touchdowns to interceptions. In the last 10 years, only five other quarterbacks selected in the first round have had passer ratings over 117, and all have had some success at the pro level (RG3, Newton, Rivers, Luck and Alex Smith).

But Bridgewater isn't a slam-dunk. His arm strength is definitely below average, and he's a Florida guy who might struggle in cold weather – a huge concern with Minnesota playing outdoors for the next two years. Durability is a concern; he's got a slender build and has had problems staying healthy. We're flagging him as a hit-or-miss guy.

4. Derek Carr, Raiders

David Carr was lousy, but we're not holding that against Oakland's second-round pick. Walter Payton and Barry Sanders made it to the Hall of Fame despite having brothers who were nondescript. Peyton Manning and Andrew Luck seem to be playing pretty well, and their dads were terrible.

Carr 2.0 lands in a good enough spot. Oakland has Matt Schaub, but his days could be numbered. In Houston last year his confidence appeared to be shot. Carr probably will be their opening day starter next year, and if he progresses quickly enough, he may start some games late this season.

The big issue is whether the Raiders can properly develop Carr as he converts from an unorthodox spread-type offense at Fresno State. He threw a lot of predetermined short balls in college, averaging only 11.2 yards per completion. In the last 10 years, the only quarterbacks selected in the first round who averaged fewer yards per completion in their final college season were Blaine Gabbert and Christian Ponder.

ALSO

The Patriots are Super Bowl contenders, so it was a surprise in the second round when they didn't go for immediate help, instead choosing **Jimmy Garoppolo**. They must feel he has a great chance of being Tom Brady's successor. Garoppolo broke all of Tony Romo's passing records at Eastern Illinois, throwing for more than 5,000 yards and 53 TDs last year. ... Houston selected **Tom Savage** with the first pick of the fourth round, and there's not much in front of him. Savage has the necessary size and arm strength, but he played for three different college teams. History tells us that when a quarterback isn't selected early, the odds are stacked against him. In the last 10 years, 28 quarterbacks have been selected in the fourth and fifth rounds. Only one of those guys has had any pro success at all (Kyle Orton). ... **Zach Mettenberger** (Titans) and **Logan Thomas** (Cardinals) fit that same profile. They're big guys with strong arms, but if there was much of a chance of either of those guys actually becoming viable starters, they would have been selected a lot earlier.

RUNNING BACK

1. Bishop Sankey, Titans

Sankey was the first back drafted, and he also goes into the best situation. The Titans released Chris Johnson, so they're looking for a featured back, and they've also sunk a lot of resources into their offensive line in the last two years. They've drafted Chance Warmack and Taylor Lewan with top-11 picks, and they've signed Andy Levitre and Michael Oher to big contracts.

Ken Whisenhunt oversaw an offense in San Diego last year that put up big rushing numbers, and he'll try to duplicate that here, with Sankey leading the way. The Titans don't have any other big-time runners. Shonn Greene will see some change-of-pace action and probably carry at the goal line, but Sankey looks like their main guy.

Sankey weighs only 209 pounds, but he's big enough to handle a healthy workload. He ran for 1,870 yards at Washington last year, breaking Corey Dillon's school record. He's also a capable pass catcher, leading one team scout to compare him to Tiki Barber.

In our eyes, the worry is how long it might take Sankey to transition to a more traditional offense. Washington went to a fast-paced, Oregon-type system last year, and that kind of offense tends to create big running lanes. LaMichael James was drafted in about the same spot as Sankey, and he hasn't done anything in the pros. (James' college numbers were similar; he's 15 pounds lighter but a tenth of a second faster.)

2. Carlos Hyde, 49ers

NFL teams don't use first-round picks on running backs anymore, but that doesn't mean Hyde (selected late in the second) is any less talented than the backs that were chosen about 30 picks earlier seven years ago. Three running backs picked in the second round last year put up good rookie numbers.

Hyde passes the eyeball test. He's a 230-pound bruiser who runs angry, with a lower center of gravity than you might expect from a back his size. Seldom does he go down on first contact, and he usually falls forward. He averaged 7.3 yards per carry last year at Ohio State.



Johnny Manziel has great improvisational skills, but that style of play might get him into trouble against NFL defenses.

Hyde isn't a breakaway back; he ran a 4.6 at the combine. He also won't contribute much as a receiver; his hands look just OK, and the 49ers don't use their running backs in the passing game anyway. Plenty of carries in that offense, though; only Seattle and Buffalo ran the ball more often last year.

Hyde won't start initially, but it might not be long before he carves out a meaningful role (and then works his way into the top spot). Frank Gore is 31, Kendall Hunter is just a change-of-pace guy, and Marcus Lattimore probably wasn't quite as good as Hyde even before his multiple knee surgeries.

3. Terrance West, Browns

The Browns are high on West; they traded up to select him late in the third round. And they weren't alone. The original Cleveland franchise was planning on selecting him a few picks later. The Ravens had been watching West at nearby Towson all year.

West is rough around the edges; he didn't even play at a Division I school. But he ran for 2,509 yards and 41 touchdowns last year, and the physical measurables are there. He's a 225-pounder who runs 4.54.

The most similar current back is probably Joique Bell. He ran for over 2,000 yards at Wayne State, and he's been able to carve out a viable role with the Lions. West is a little faster, and there isn't much ahead of him — just injury prone Ben Tate. There may be a longer adjustment period, but our leaning is that West will have some NFL success.

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4. Devonta Freeman, Falcons

Freeman averaged only 135 carries in his three seasons at Florida State, but that doesn't mean he can't handle a lot more at the NFL level. Deuce McAllister, Ronnie Brown and Maurice Jones-Drew weren't heavily used in college, and they fared just fine. The Falcons say they wouldn't have drafted him if they didn't think he might eventually be a starter.

"If you look at his size (5-8, 206), the first thing that comes to mind is he may be a change-of-pace back," says Mike Smith. "That is not the case." A much smaller Florida State runner, Warrick Dunn, had a trio of 1,000-yard seasons for the Falcons in the not-too-distant past.

Smith said he was particularly impressed by Freeman at the team's OTAs in May. Steven Jackson is an old 31. Jacquizz Rodgers isn't big enough or good enough. And you get the feeling Freeman will work his way into the lineup sooner rather than later.

5. Tre Mason, Rams

The Rams used a third-round pick on Mason after seemingly finding their franchise back a year earlier in Zac Stacy, but that's how things are going in the league. Christine Michael, Carlos Hyde and Charles Sims were all Day 2 picks the last two years by teams seemingly well stocked at the position. The way running backs get hurt, teams like to stockpile talent at that position.

Mason's landing spot is less than ideal, but maybe the Rams aren't fully sold on Stacy. As a rookie, he ran hard but averaged only 3.9 yards per carry. Mason has more speed, so he could be worked in immediately as a change-of-pace, giving them more big plays.

At 5-foot-8 and 207 pounds, Mason looks like another Maurice Jones-Drew or Ray Rice. He has some inside running ability, as evidenced by his 23 touchdowns last year at Auburn. He needs to improve in pass protection if he wants to play in passing situations. We expect he'll open the season as their No. 2, and they'll go from there.

6. Jeremy Hill, Bengals

The Bengals already have Giovani Bernard, but they're a two-back team and wanted to add somebody younger and more dynamic than 29-year-old BenJarvus Green-Ellis. Once Hill is comfortable in the offense, he should become their main runner between the tackles, keeping Bernard fresh to be more of a speed back and pass catcher.

Like Green-Ellis, Hill doesn't have great speed. He ran a 4.66 at the combine. But he's a 233-pounder with good power. He'll bang for yards inside, and he's good enough in protection to play on passing downs.

The Bengals could have instead selected Carlos Hyde, who played at nearby Ohio State. But they liked that Hill played in a pro-style offense at Louisiana State, potentially making for a smoother adjustment. Hill was charged with simple battery after a fight in college, but Cincinnati has never been a team to shy away from players with more off-field risk.

7. Andre Williams, Giants

Williams lasted until the fourth round, but the Giants say he was a second-rounder on their board, and they don't have much else at the position. David Wilson is trying to come back from a career-threatening neck injury and Rashad Jennings has been a backup for most of his career.

2014 ROOKIES

Williams looks like he could be another Alfred Morris. He's not much of a pass catcher (he didn't catch a pass all of last season) but he's a 230-pounder who'll hit holes decisively. He ran for 2,177 yards last year at Boston College.

"If you get up in a game and you're trying to run the clock, this is the kind of guy that you can give the ball to over and over and over," says GM Jerry Reese. If the Giants can sort out the issues with their offensive line, Williams could make a nice impact immediately.

ALSO

The Bears released Michael Bush, so the backup spot behind Matt Forte is available, and **KaDeem Carey** should fill it. The way running backs get hurt in this league, there's a reasonable chance Carey will start some games. As a prospect, Carey looks like a poor man's version of Bishop Sankey. Operating out of a runner-friendly scheme, he led the NCAA in rushing two years ago. But Carey doesn't have Sankey's speed; he couldn't crack 4.6 at either the combine or his pro day. ... Adrian Peterson will break down one day, and third-rounder **Jerick McKinnon** probably will be the guy who takes over. He runs a 4.41, and he piled up jaw-dropping highlights at Georgia Southern. He's incredibly raw, having played more quarterback than running back in college. ... It will be hard for **Charles Sims** to find his way into a leading role. The Bucs not only have Doug Martin, but they also got nice production out of Mike James last year. Sims may be their third-down back initially; he catches the ball a lot better than either of those guys. ... Kansas City lost Dexter McCcluster in free agency, and it's hoping fourth-rounder **DeAnthony Thomas** can fill those shoes. Thomas is about the same size (174 pounds) and is a little faster. He'll probably return a kick for a touchdown at some point, and 40 receptions are possible. ... **James White** split time at Wisconsin, so he's already used to the kind of approach they use in New England. If he can play, the Patriots won't hesitate to use him. BenJarvus Green-Ellis and Brandon Bolden weren't drafted at all, and they've gotten carries in that offense in recent years. Shane Vereen and Stevan Ridley are both in contract years. ... **Lache Seastrunk** was a big-play dynamo at Baylor, piling up nearly 1,200 yards and averaging 7.4 yards per carry, with 11 TDs. He ran a 4.51 at the combine, but the former sprinter is probably faster than that (he looked faster against Big 12 defenses, anyway). Washington would like to spell Morris on passing downs, but Seastrunk didn't catch a pass all of last year. ... **Dri Archer** ran a 4.26 at the combine, just behind Chris Johnson's record, but he's tiny – just 173 pounds. The Steelers likely will use him primarily as a kick returner. If he picks things up quickly, maybe he gets a few change-of-pace plays.

WIDE RECEIVER

1. Sammy Watkins, Bills

NFL teams are pretty good at identifying elite receivers. In the last decade, seven have been picked in the top 5. A.J. Green, Calvin Johnson, Larry Fitzgerald and Andre Johnson have all been home runs. Not so much with the other three – Justin Blackmon, Braylon Edwards and Charles Rogers – but Edwards at least had one monster season. Blackmon and Rogers are harder to judge because of drug and alcohol issues.

In terms of pure talent, Watkins comes in just behind the four superstars. At 6-foot-1, he's at least 2 inches shorter than all of them. But he runs a 4.4, is a good leaper and is unusually strong for a wide receiver. He looks like a cross between Julio Jones and Dez Bryant.

Watkins is fast enough to get behind defenses, and he's even more

dangerous in the short passing game, with an explosive first step and the power to run through arm tackles. The Bills are confident he's the real article; before swinging their trade with Cleveland, they tried to put together similar deals to select Watkins with one of the first three picks. He tore up Ohio State in the Orange Bowl, catching 16 passes for 227 yards.

Watkins' landing spot isn't perfect. It's too early to say if EJ Manuel is a viable quarterback. But Watkins will be the focal point of their passing game, making him the most promising of all rookies at all positions.

2. Mike Evans, Buccaneers

Let's not go overboard with Evans. He's 6-foot-5, but it's wildly premature to start putting him in the same class as Calvin Johnson or even Vincent Jackson. He doesn't have the same speed as those guys. He runs a 4.53, meaning he's way slower than Johnson and he's not quite as fast as his new teammate.

Evans showed some ability to take away the ball from smaller defensive backs at Texas A&M, while his new quarterback (Josh McCown) had some success last year throwing to big receivers. So there's that. But while such theories are easy to bat around in the offseason, then tend to be quickly forgotten in September.

Most notably, the idea that big receivers dominate in the red zone is largely overblown. Consider Calvin Johnson and A.J. Green; as talented as those guys are, they haven't been great around the goal line. And in this particular case, Evans wasn't even a great red-zone receiver at Texas A&M. Johnny Manziel threw 63 touchdowns the last two years, and Evans caught only 17 of them.

We're not suggesting that Evans will be a bust. But he doesn't look like a guy who'll come in and dominate immediately, and he doesn't seem to have as much upside as Watkins. Probably the 2nd-best rookie prospect overall.

3. Brandin Cooks, Saints

Seldom does the marriage of player and team look better than this one. Cooks was the fastest receiver at the combine, running a 4.33, and he caught a zillion balls at Oregon State. The Saints love speed, and they're looking for pass catchers after unloading Darren Sproles and Lance Moore in the offseason.

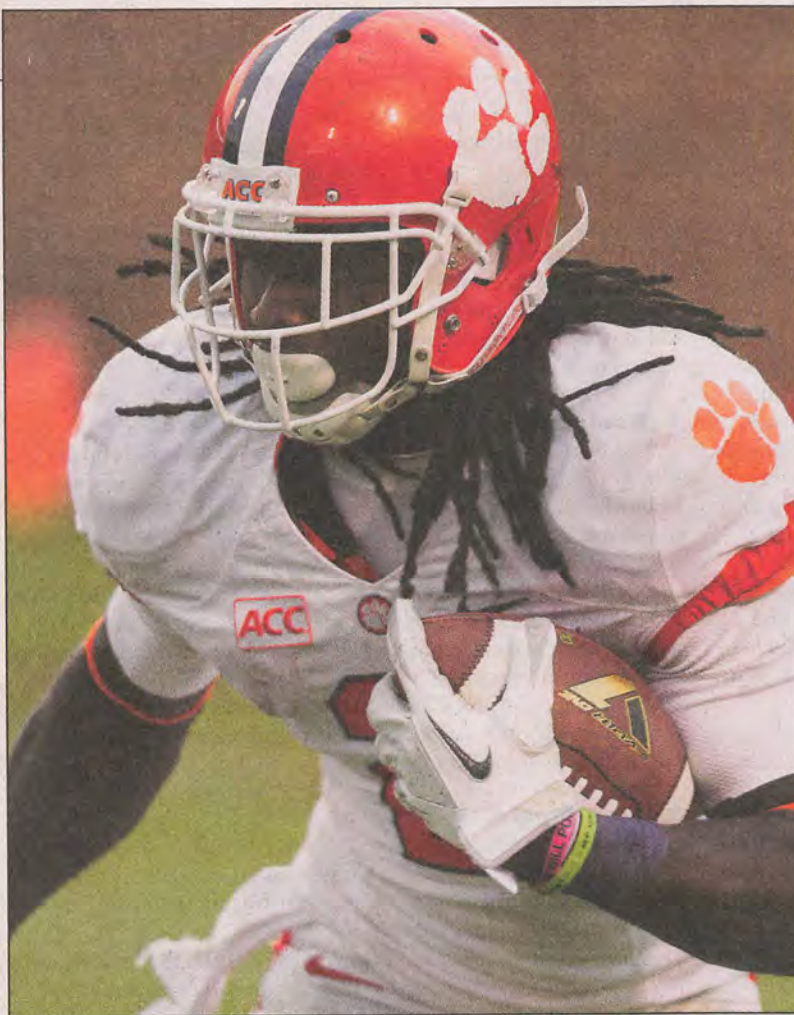
Cooks isn't big (5-10, 189) but he weighs the same as Sproles, who averaged 77 catches the last three years. Once they get him coached up, Cooks should absorb a lot of those same routes. He caught 128 passes and 16 touchdowns last year, showing Sproles-like ability to make people miss after the catch.

New Orleans wanted Cooks badly enough that they traded up to get him, and they could have landed another Steve Smith. Sean Payton says he loves Cooks' toughness. The Saints have a lot of other pass catchers, but nobody with the same kind of after-the-catch ability.

4. Odell Beckham, Giants

Beckham was high on the draft boards of several teams who knew they'd miss out on the top two prospects. San Francisco tried to trade up for him. The Giants selected him 12th, adding him to a receiving corps that includes his former roommate at Louisiana State (Rueben Randle).

Beckham is a smaller receiver (5-11, 198), but he's a burner – he ran a 4.43 at the combine. He's tough enough to run routes across the middle of the field, and has the sharp cuts and open-field moves to turn them into bigger plays. He's got the concentration to catch the ball in traffic or make circus catches (go back and watch his one-handed grab against Iowa in the Outback Bowl).



LEE COLEMAN/ICON SM

Before trading up with Cleveland, the Bills tried to move all the way up to No. 1 overall to get their hands on Sammy Watkins.

The Giants have other capable receivers – not only Randle but also Victor Cruz and Jerrel Jernigan. They almost certainly will work in Beckham slowly, hoping he can contribute some big plays as a situational receiver in his first year. But he's more talented than all of those guys (even Cruz), so he might develop into their best receiver in 2-3 years. They wouldn't have drafted him unless they had doubts about Randle.

5. Jordan Matthews, Eagles

Seven receivers were selected in the second round, tying for 3rd-most ever. There's not much difference in talent between these guys, so it becomes more important where they went. Jerry Rice's cousin appears to be in the best spot of this group.

The Eagles put up big passing numbers, but Riley Cooper and Jeremy Maclin are pretty ordinary starters. It might be only about a year before Matthews is starting and outperforming both of those guys. Initially he should be their No. 3 receiver. Matthews caught 206 passes in his final two years at Vanderbilt.

6. Davante Adams, Packers

Ted Thompson knows how to scout receivers. He's hit on the last four he's selected in the second and third rounds, including Greg Jennings, Jordy Nelson, James Jones and Randall Cobb. How does one argue with that kind of track record?

Adams caught 131 passes last year at Fresno State. He's not

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particularly fast and will need development, but that's kind of par for the course in Green Bay. None of those other receivers did too much in their first year. Both Nelson and Cobb are in contract years, and Adams by the start of his second year should be ready to move past Jarrett Boykin.

7. Kelvin Benjamin, Panthers

It's best to be wary of big, velocity-challenged receivers. The list is long of jumbo-sized pass catchers who used their size to dominate in college, only to figure out how much bigger and faster the defensive backs are in the NFL. J.J. Stokes, Reggie Williams and Mike Williams come to mind.

Carolina obviously feels Benjamin is more likely to develop into another Plaxico Burress (a big guy who lived up to the hype), otherwise they wouldn't have selected him in the first round. And it's comforting that Carolina doesn't have much else at wide receiver. But Benjamin has the look of a high-risk pick that's probably best avoided.

8. Marqise Lee, Jaguars

It's fair to wonder if Lee will even outperform Allen Robinson (selected by Jacksonville later in the second round). Historically, when a team selects a receiver in the first two rounds, then follows that with another receiver, just as many of the second pass catchers have had better careers, including Anquan Boldin and Fred Barnett.

While conceding there's little difference between the two, we'll ride with Lee. He looked like a possible top-10 pick as a sophomore. He slumped last year, but he was trying to play hurt and that whole team was overrun by dysfunction. The physical measurements aren't anything special – he's 6-foot and 195 pounds, and he runs a 4.5.

ALSO

The Broncos snagged **Cody Latimer** in the second round, and he could be a starter for them a year down the road. He's not as experienced or knowledgeable as Emmanuel Sanders, but he looks like a better fit to be an outside receiver in that offense. Sanders is better suited to play in the slot. Latimer is almost as big as Eric Decker and probably a little faster. Like Decker four years ago, Latimer enters the pros recovering from a foot surgery that could slow his initial development. ... As mentioned earlier, **Allen Robinson** wasn't even the first receiver Jacksonville drafted, but that doesn't mean he can't play. He caught 97 passes last year at Penn State (72 more than anyone else on his team). There's no getting around that he runs 4.6; that's why he lasted until late in the second round. But the same kinds of things were once said about Anquan Boldin. ... The Colts have a glut of receivers on the roster, so it may take a while for **Donte Moncrief** to fight his way to the top. If and when he does, though, he could be Andrew Luck's main receiver for years. Moncrief didn't put up great numbers at Ole Miss, but that team didn't have a great passing offense. The size, speed and talent are there. ... The Dolphins have Mike Wallace and Brian Hartline, but **Jarvis Landry** could move past those guys in a year or two. Wallace was a disappointment in his first season; Miami would love to have another team take his salary off their hands. The Dolphins use plenty of three-receiver sets, and Landry might be their best over-the-middle

2014 ROOKIES

receiver pretty quickly. He put up better numbers than Odell Beckham at Louisiana State last year. ... The Jaguars weren't the only team to select two wideouts in the first three rounds; so did the Eagles, with **Jordan Matthews** and Josh Huff. The Oregon product, who played running back in high school, is athletic and fast (4.45), but struggled with drops in college. He knows Chip Kelly's offense. ... The Steelers have done a nice job of drafting wideouts. Fourth-rounder **Martavis Bryant** is a tall (6-4, 211), rangy guy with good speed (4.42) who averaged more than 22 yards per catch at Clemson last year. He could find his way into a major role fairly quickly, with Pittsburgh having an uncertain depth chart after Antonio Brown. ... At 6-foot and 175 pounds, **Paul Richardson** is awfully skinny, but that's almost a good thing. You've got to figure the Seahawks really loved everything else about him to select him in the second round. He should hit some long touchdowns for them and maybe return punts. But Seattle has been rotating its receivers in recent years, so hard to see him playing anything close to a full-time role in the foreseeable future. ... Third-rounder **John Brown** is small (5-10, 179), and stuck behind Larry Fitzgerald and Michael Floyd, he won't be a starter anytime soon. But he runs 4.34, so they could work him in as a big-play guy off the bench. He also returns kicks.

TIGHT END

1. Eric Ebron, Lions

When a tight end is selected early in the first round, you can be sure he'll be counted on to be a big part of the offense. There have been five chosen in the top 15 since 1997, and all have developed into significant fantasy options -- Bubba Franks, Jeremy Shockey, Tony Gonzalez, Kellen Winslow and Vernon Davis.

Ebron is as much a wide receiver as a tight end. He didn't do much blocking at North Carolina, where he rarely even lined up next to a tackle. Running receiver-like routes, he averaged 15.7 yards per catch last year. Of tight ends selected in the first

round, only two in the last 20 years have averaged more yards per catch in their final college season -- Tony Gonzalez and Dallas Clark.

The Lions also have Brandon Pettigrew. They'll probably use him as their traditional in-line tight end, where he'll be mostly a blocker. Ebron likely will be used more as a motion tight end and in the slot. He runs a 4.6, above-average for a tight end. Detroit's new offensive coordinator, Joe Lombardi, knows something about the impact of a difference-making tight end, having coached Jimmy Graham the last few years in New Orleans.

2. Austin Seferian-Jenkins, Buccaneers

The Bucs also have Vincent Jackson and Mike Evans, who are 6-foot-5, and Seferian-Jenkins is a half-inch taller, so they're well stocked with big receivers. And the second-round pick knows how to use that size to box out opponents on lob-type throws; he played some basketball when he attended Washington.

Seferian-Jenkins ran a 4.8 at the combine, but he might be a little faster -- a pre-draft report had him at 4.6 in a private workout. In any case, he's big and strong and a better blocker than the other top tight end prospects, putting the John Mackey Award winner in good position to play full-time immediately. There are a couple of off-field red flags, including a 2013 DUI conviction and suspended sentence, but nothing that looks too serious.

3. Jace Amaro, Jets

Like Ebron, Amaro projects to be primarily a pass catcher. He's 15 pounds heavier and not as fast, but he runs great routes and has sure hands. Amaro set an NCAA record for tight ends with 1,352 receiving yards at Texas Tech last season.

Amaro goes to a team that doesn't pass the ball often or effectively. But Dustin Keller caught 65 passes for this team three years ago, and Amaro has the same kind of game. Even after signing Eric Decker, the Jets don't have much at wide receiver, so they could be looking for Amaro to fill a Keller-type role.

DRAFTED ROOKIES

QUARTERBACKS																				
Blake Bortles, Jac.	1	3	Central Florida	6-5	232	Lorenzo Taliaferro, Balt.	4	138	Coastal Carolina	6-0	229	Kevin Norwood, Sea.	4	123	Alabama	6-2	198			
Johnny Manziel, Clev.	1	22	Texas A&M	6-0	207	Alfred Blue, Hou.	6	181	Louisiana State	6-2	223	Ryan Grant, Wash.	5	142	Tulane	6-0	199			
Teddy Bridgewater, Minn.	1	32	Louisville	6-2	214	Lache Seastrunk, Wash.	6	186	Baylor	5-9	201	Devin Street, Dall.	5	146	Pittsburgh	6-3	198			
Derek Carr, Oak.	2	36	Fresno State	6-2	214	Marion Grice, S.D.	6	201	Arizona State	6-0	208	Jared Abbrederis, G.B.	5	176	Wisconsin	6-1	195			
Jimmy Garoppolo, N.E.	2	62	Eastern Illinois	6-2	226	Tyler Gaffney, Car.	6	204	Stanford	5-11	220	Robert Herron, T.B.	6	185	Wyoming	5-9	193			
Logan Thomas, Ariz.	4	120	Virginia Tech	6-6	248	Jay Prosch, Hou.	6	211	Auburn	6-1	256	T.J. Jones, Det.	6	189	Notre Dame	6-0	188			
Tom Savage, Hou.	4	135	Pittsburgh	6-4	228	Storm Johnson, Jac.	7	222	Central Florida	6-0	209	Matt Hazel, Mia.	6	190	Coastal Carolina	6-1	198			
Aaron Murray, K.C.	5	163	Georgia	6-1	207	Kiero Small, Sea.	7	227	Arkansas	5-8	244	Walt Powell, Ariz.	6	196	Murray State	5-11	189			
AJ McCarron, Cin.	5	164	Alabama	6-3	220	Trey Millard, S.F.	7	245	Oklahoma	6-2	247	Quincy Enunwa, NYJ	6	209	Nebraska	6-2	225			
Zach Mettenberger, Tenn.	6	178	Louisiana State	6-5	224	WIDE RECEIVERS							Mike Campanaro, Balt.	7	218	Wake Forest	5-9	192		
David Fales, Chi.	6	183	San Jose State	6-2	212	Sammy Watkins, Buff.	1	4	Clemson	6-1	211	Jeff Janis, G.B.	7	236	Saginaw Valley State	6-3	219			
Keith Wenning, Balt.	6	194	Ball State	6-3	218	Mike Evans, T.B.	1	7	Texas A&M	6-5	231	James Wright, Cin.	7	239	Louisiana State	6-1	201			
Tajh Boyd, NYJ	6	213	Clemson	6-1	222	Odell Beckham, NYG	1	12	Louisiana State	5-11	198	Tevin Reese, S.D.	7	240	Baylor	5-10	163			
Garrett Gilbert, St.L.	6	214	Southern Methodist	6-4	221	Brandin Cooks, N.O.	1	20	Oregon State	5-10	189	Jeremy Gallon, N.E.	7	244	Michigan	5-7	185			
RUNNING BACKS												TIGHT ENDS								
Bishop Sankey, Tenn.	2	54	Washington	5-9	209	Kelvin Benjamin, Car.	1	28	Florida State	6-5	240	Eric Ebron, Det.	1	10	North Carolina	6-4	250			
Jeremy Hill, Cin.	2	55	Louisiana State	6-1	233	Marqise Lee, Jac.	2	39	Southern Cal	6-0	192	Austin Seferian-Jenkins, T.B.	2	38	Washington	6-5	262			
Carlos Hyde, S.F.	2	57	Ohio State	6-0	230	Jordan Matthews, Phil.	2	42	Vanderbilt	6-3	212	Jace Amaro, NYJ	2	49	Texas Tech	6-5	265			
Charles Sims, T.B.	3	69	West Virginia	6-0	214	Paul Richardson, Sea.	2	45	Colorado	6-0	175	Troy Niklas, Ariz.	2	52	Notre Dame	6-6	270			
Tre Mason, St.L.	3	75	Auburn	5-8	207	Davante Adams, G.B.	2	53	Fresno State	6-1	212	C.J. Fiedorowicz, Hou.	3	65	Iowa	6-5	265			
Terrance West, Clev.	3	94	Towson	5-9	225	Cody Latimer, Den.	2	56	Indiana	6-2	215	Richard Rodgers, G.B.	3	98	California	6-4	257			
Jerick McKinnon, Minn.	3	96	Georgia Southern	5-9	209	Allen Robinson, Jac.	2	61	Penn State	6-2	220	Crockett Gillmore, Balt.	3	99	Colorado State	6-6	260			
Dri Archer, Pitt.	3	97	Kent State	5-8	173	Jarvis Landry, Mia.	2	63	Louisiana State	5-11	205	Arthur Lynch, Mia.	5	155	Georgia	6-5	258			
Devonta Freeman, Atl.	4	103	Florida State	5-8	206	Josh Huff, Phil.	3	86	Oregon	5-11	206	Ted Bolser, Wash.	7	217	Indiana	6-5	257			
Andre Williams, NYG	4	113	Boston College	5-11	230	Donte Moncrief, Ind.	3	90	Mississippi	6-2	221	Rob Blanchflower, Pitt.	7	230	Massachusetts	6-4	256			
KaDeem Carey, Chi.	4	117	Arizona	5-9	207	John Brown, Ariz.	3	91	Pittsburgh State (KS)	5-10	179	KICKERS								
DeAnthony Thomas, K.C.	4	124	Oregon	5-9	174	Jalen Saunders, NYJ	4	104	Oklahoma	5-9	165	Zach Hocker, Wash.	7	228	Arkansas	6-0	189			
James White, N.E.	4	130	Wisconsin	5-9	204	Bruce Ellington, S.F.	4	106	South Carolina	5-9	197	Nate Freese, Det.	7	229	Boston College	5-11	192			
						Shaq Evans, NYJ	4	115	UCLA	6-1	213									
						Martavis Bryant, Pitt.	4	118	Clemson	6-4	211									

ALSO

The new coaching staff in Houston views Garrett Graham as more of an H-back, so they're looking for a traditional tight end. That should be third-rounder **C.J. Fiedorowicz**. He appears to be a solid blocker with below-average receiving ability. ... The Packers are trying to figure out what they're doing at tight end. They'd like to bring Jeremiae Finley back, if they think his neck won't be an issue. Otherwise, they're looking at a host of youngsters. That includes third-rounder **Richard Rodgers**. The last time the Packers drafted a Rodgers out of Cal, it worked out pretty well. They've also signed Colt Lyerla, who probably would have been drafted even earlier than Rodgers if not for a host of off-field problems at Oregon, including assault charges that were dropped and an arrest for possession of cocaine. ... The Cardinals drafted **Troy Niklas** in the second round, and he will start immediately. But Niklas is more blocker than a pass catcher. He won't be a big part of the passing game. ... The Ravens will predominantly use two tight ends, but Dennis Pitta and Owen Daniels are both light-blocking veterans coming off

injuries. Third-rounder **Crockett Gillmore** belongs on the radar as a player who could carve out a role. He'll probably become their in-line tight end before long and could develop into a red-zone threat.

KICKER

1. Nate Freese, Lions

The Lions typically have one of the league's more prolific offenses, and although they ranked next-to-last in field goals last year, they were 6th the previous season. Freese is accurate (38 of 40 his last two years at Boston College) and should be productive with the Lions, with the added benefit of kicking indoors in most of his games.

2. Zach Hocker, Washington

Hocker has a big leg, but it remains to be seen if he can beat out Kai Forbath. He might be used only for kickoffs. Hocker didn't display NFL-level accuracy at Arkansas, converting only 77 percent of his field goals.

DYNASTY LEAGUE FANTASY INDEX™ CHEAT SHEET

How rookies (*) stack up against veterans in fantasy leagues allowing teams to protect players. Ratings based on both touchdowns and yards. Ages as of September 1, 2014.

Quarterbacks	Age	Running Backs	Age	Wide Receivers	Age	Tight Ends	Age	Kickers	Age
1. Aaron Rodgers	30	1. LeSean McCoy	26	1. Demaryius Thomas	26	1. Jimmy Graham	27	1. Stephen Gostkowski	30
2. Andrew Luck	24	2. Eddie Lacy	24	2. A.J. Green	26	2. Julius Thomas	26	2. Justin Tucker	24
3. Matt Ryan	29	3. Jamaal Charles	27	3. Calvin Johnson	28	3. Rob Gronkowski	25	3. Steven Hauschka	29
4. Matthew Stafford	26	4. Giovani Bernard	22	4. Randall Cobb	24	4. Jordan Cameron	26	4. Matt Prater	30
5. Nick Foles	25	5. LeVeon Bell	22	5. Julio Jones	25	5. Kyle Rudolph	24	5. Mason Crosby	29
6. Cam Newton	25	6. Adrian Peterson	29	6. Dez Bryant	25	6. Vernon Davis	30	6. Greg Zuerlein	26
7. Drew Brees	35	7. Montee Ball	23	7. Alshon Jeffery	24	7. Zach Ertz	23	7. Blair Walsh	24
8. Peyton Manning	38	8. Matt Forte	28	8. Jordy Nelson	29	8. Greg Olsen	29	8. Phil Dawson	39
9. Russell Wilson	25	9. Alfred Morris	25	9. Antonio Brown	26	9. Dennis Pitta	29	9. Dan Bailey	26
10. Colin Kaepernick	26	10. DeMarco Murray	26	10. Sammy Watkins	21	10. Eric Ebron	21	10. Robbie Gould	32
11. Robert Griffin III	24	11. Marshawn Lynch	28	11. Brandon Marshall	30	11. Charles Clay	25	11. Alex Henery	27
12. Philip Rivers	32	12. Andre Ellington	25	12. Julian Edelman	28	12. Jason Witten	32	12. Nick Novak	33
13. Jay Cutler	31	13. Doug Martin	25	13. Michael Floyd	24	13. Tyler Eifert	23	13. Connor Barth	28
14. Tom Brady	37	14. Arian Foster	28	14. Keenan Allen	22	14. * Austin Seferian-Jenkins	21	14. Caleb Sturgis	25
15. Ben Roethlisberger	32	15. * Bishop Sankey	21	15. Cordarrelle Patterson	23	15. Jordan Reed	24	15. Adam Vinatieri	41
16. Andy Dalton	26	16. C.J. Spiller	27	16. Vincent Jackson	31	16. * Jace Amaro	22	16. Ryan Succop	27
17. Eli Manning	33	17. Christine Michael	23	17. Larry Fitzgerald	31	17. Martellus Bennett	27	17. Graham Gano	27
18. Tony Romo	34	18. Toby Gerhart	27	18. Victor Cruz	27	18. Coby Fleener	25	18. Dan Carpenter	28
19. Joe Flacco	29	19. Zac Stacy	23	19. * Mike Evans	21	19. Jared Cook	27	19. Mike Nugent	32
20. * Blake Bortles	22	20. Shane Vereen	25	20. * Brandin Cooks	20	20. Delanie Walker	30	20. Nick Folk	29
21. Alex Smith	30	21. Chris Johnson	28	21. DeSean Jackson	27	21. Ladarius Green	24	21. Shaun Suisham	32
22. Ryan Tannehill	26	22. Ryan Mathews	26	22. T.Y. Hilton	24	22. Heath Miller	31	22. * Nate Freese	24
23. Sam Bradford	26	23. * Carlos Hyde	23	23. Michael Crabtree	26	23. Garrett Graham	28	23. Sebastian Janikowski	36
24. EJ Manuel	24	24. Lamar Miller	23	24. Terrance Williams	24	24. Jeremiae Finley	27	24. Josh Brown	35
25. * Johnny Manziel	21	25. Ray Rice	27	25. Pierre Garcon	28	25. Mychal Rivera	23	25. Matt Bryant	39
26. * Teddy Bridgewater	21	26. Reggie Bush	29	26. DeAndre Hopkins	22	26. Brent Celek	29	26. Jay Feely	38
27. Carson Palmer	34	27. Trent Richardson	23	27. Andre Johnson	33	27. Dwayne Allen	24	27. Shayne Graham	36
28. Geno Smith	23	28. Joique Bell	28	28. Percy Harvin	26	28. Antonio Gates	34	28. Josh Scobee	32
29. Jake Locker	26	29. * Terrance West	23	29. * Odell Beckham	21	29. Jermaine Gresham	26	29. Randy Bullock	24
30. Mike Glennon	24	30. * Devonta Freeman	22	30. Eric Decker	27	30. Travis Kelce	24	30. Billy Cundiff	34
31. * Derek Carr	23	31. Stevan Ridley	25	31. * Jordan Matthews	22	31. Marcedes Lewis	30	31. Dustin Hopkins	23
32. Josh McCown	35	32. Ben Tate	26	32. Mike Wallace	28	32. Levine Toilolo	23	32. Rob Bironas	36
33. Ryan Fitzpatrick	31	33. * Tre Mason	21	33. Kendall Wright	24	33. Lance Kendricks	26	33. Kai Forbath	26
34. Michael Vick	34	34. Rashad Jennings	29	34. Torrey Smith	25	34. Scott Chandler	29	34. Maikon Bonani	25
35. Matt Cassel	32	35. Maurice Jones-Drew	29	35. Riley Cooper	26	35. Zach Miller	28	35. * Zach Hocker	23
36. Chad Henne	29	36. Frank Gore	31	36. Roddy White	32	36. Gavin Escobar	23	36. Garrett Hartley	28
37. * Tom Savage	24	37. Knowshon Moreno	27	37. Tavon Austin	23	37. * Troy Niklas	21	37. Lawrence Tynes	36
38. * Jimmy Garoppolo	22	38. * Jeremy Hill	21	38. Markus Wheaton	23	38. Jeff Cumberland	27	38. Kickalicious	29
39. Matt Schaub	33	39. Bryce Brown	23	39. Justin Hunter	23	39. Luke Willson	24	39. Brandon Bogotay	25
40. Brandon Weeden	30	40. Steven Jackson	31	40. Dwayne Bowe	29	40. Brandon Bostick	25	40. Rian Lindell	37
41. Terrelle Pryor	25	41. * Andre Williams	22	41. Wes Welker	33	41. * Colt Lyerla	21	41. * Brandon McManus	23
42. * Zach Mettenberger	23	42. Khiry Robinson	24	42. Cecil Shorts III	26	42. * Richard Rodgers	21	42. Spencer Lanning	26
43. Brian Hoyer	28	43. Bernard Pierce	24	43. Josh Gordon	23	43. * C.J. Fiedorowicz	22	43. Brandon Bogotay	25
44. Matt Flynn	29	44. Knile Davis	22	44. Golden Tate	26	44. Vance McDonald	24	44. Derek Dimke	24
45. Ryan Mallett	26	45. * KaDeem Carey	21	45. Aaron Dobson	23	45. Brandon Pettigrew	29	45. Pat McAfee	27
46. Mark Sanchez	27	46. Brandon Bolden	24	46. Brian Hartline	27	46. Anthony Fasano	30		
47. Shaun Hill	34	47. * Jerick McKinnon	22	47. Marques Colston	31	47. * Crockett Gillmore	22		
48. Drew Stanton	30	48. Chris Polk	24	48. Kenny Stills	22	48. Logan Paulsen	27		
49. Kirk Cousins	26	49. Donald Brown	27	49. Marvin Jones	24	49. Rob Houser	26		
50. Josh Freeman	26	50. Shonn Greene	29	50. * Davante Adams	21	50. Tim Wright	24		

Rankings based on the scoring system of 6 points for TDs, 4 for TD passes, and 1 for every 20 passing or 10 rushing/receiving yards. Rankings assume fantasy teams allowed to protect their entire roster each year. Rookies designated by bullets (*).

FANTASY FOOTBALL INDEX

ARIZONA CARDINALS 2013 Record: 10-6

SEP. 8.....SAN DIEGO
SEP. 14.....at NY Giants
SEP. 21.....SAN FRANCISCO
SEP. 28.....Bye
OCT. 5.....at Denver
OCT. 12.....WASHINGTON
OCT. 19.....at Oakland
OCT. 26.....PHILADELPHIA
NOV. 2.....at Dallas
NOV. 9.....ST. LOUIS
NOV. 16.....DETROIT
NOV. 23.....at Seattle
NOV. 30.....at Atlanta
DEC. 7.....KANSAS CITY
DEC. 11.....at St. Louis
DEC. 21.....SEATTLE
DEC. 28.....at San Francisco

ATLANTA FALCONS 2013 Record: 4-12

SEP. 7.....NEW ORLEANS
SEP. 14.....at Cincinnati
SEP. 18.....TAMPA BAY
SEP. 28.....at Minnesota
OCT. 5.....at NY Giants
OCT. 12.....CHICAGO
OCT. 19.....at Baltimore
OCT. 26.....DETROIT (London)
NOV. 2.....Bye
NOV. 9.....at Tampa Bay
NOV. 16.....at Carolina
NOV. 23.....CLEVELAND
NOV. 30.....ARIZONA
DEC. 8.....at Green Bay
DEC. 14.....PITTSBURGH
DEC. 21.....at New Orleans
DEC. 28.....CAROLINA

BALTIMORE RAVENS 2013 Record: 8-8

SEP. 7.....CINCINNATI
SEP. 11.....PITTSBURGH
SEP. 21.....at Cleveland
SEP. 28.....CAROLINA
OCT. 5.....at Indianapolis
OCT. 12.....at Tampa Bay
OCT. 19.....ATLANTA
OCT. 26.....at Cincinnati
NOV. 2.....at Pittsburgh
NOV. 9.....TENNESSEE
NOV. 16.....Bye
NOV. 24.....at New Orleans
NOV. 30.....SAN DIEGO
DEC. 7.....at Miami
DEC. 14.....JACKSONVILLE
DEC. 21.....at Houston
DEC. 28.....CLEVELAND

BUFFALO BILLS 2013 Record: 6-10

SEP. 7.....at Chicago
SEP. 14.....MIAMI
SEP. 21.....SAN DIEGO
SEP. 28.....at Houston
OCT. 5.....at Detroit
OCT. 12.....NEW ENGLAND
OCT. 19.....MINNESOTA
OCT. 26.....at NY Jets
NOV. 2.....Bye
NOV. 9.....KANSAS CITY
NOV. 13.....at Miami
NOV. 23.....NY JETS
NOV. 30.....CLEVELAND
DEC. 7.....at Denver
DEC. 14.....GREEN BAY
DEC. 21.....at Oakland
DEC. 28.....at New England

CAROLINA PANTHERS 2013 Record: 12-4

SEP. 7.....at Tampa Bay
SEP. 14.....DETROIT
SEP. 21.....PITTSBURGH
SEP. 28.....at Baltimore
OCT. 5.....CHICAGO
OCT. 12.....at Cincinnati
OCT. 19.....at Green Bay
OCT. 26.....SEATTLE
OCT. 30.....NEW ORLEANS
NOV. 10.....at Philadelphia
NOV. 16.....ATLANTA
NOV. 23.....Bye
NOV. 30.....at Minnesota
DEC. 7.....at New Orleans
DEC. 14.....TAMPA BAY
DEC. 21.....CLEVELAND
DEC. 28.....at Atlanta

CHICAGO BEARS 2013 Record: 8-8

SEP. 7.....BUFFALO
SEP. 14.....at San Francisco
SEP. 22.....at NY Jets
SEP. 28.....GREEN BAY
OCT. 5.....at Carolina
OCT. 12.....at Atlanta
OCT. 19.....MIAMI
OCT. 26.....at New England
NOV. 2.....Bye
NOV. 9.....at Green Bay
NOV. 16.....MINNESOTA
NOV. 23.....TAMPA BAY
NOV. 27.....at Detroit
DEC. 4.....DALLAS
DEC. 15.....NEW ORLEANS
DEC. 21.....DETROIT
DEC. 28.....at Minnesota

CINCINNATI BENGALS 2013 Record: 11-5

SEP. 7.....at Baltimore
SEP. 14.....ATLANTA
SEP. 21.....TENNESSEE
SEP. 28.....Bye
OCT. 5.....at New England
OCT. 12.....CAROLINA
OCT. 19.....at Indianapolis
OCT. 26.....BALTIMORE
NOV. 2.....JACKSONVILLE
NOV. 6.....CLEVELAND
NOV. 16.....at New Orleans
NOV. 23.....at Houston
NOV. 30.....at Tampa Bay
DEC. 7.....PITTSBURGH
DEC. 14.....at Cleveland
DEC. 22.....DENVER
DEC. 28.....at Pittsburgh

CLEVELAND BROWNS 2013 Record: 4-12

SEP. 7.....at Pittsburgh
SEP. 14.....NEW ORLEANS
SEP. 21.....BALTIMORE
SEP. 28.....Bye
OCT. 5.....at Tennessee
OCT. 12.....PITTSBURGH
OCT. 19.....at Jacksonville
OCT. 26.....OAKLAND
NOV. 2.....TAMPA BAY
NOV. 6.....at Cincinnati
NOV. 16.....HOUSTON
NOV. 23.....at Atlanta
NOV. 30.....at Buffalo
DEC. 7.....INDIANAPOLIS
DEC. 14.....CINCINNATI
DEC. 21.....at Carolina
DEC. 28.....at Baltimore

DALLAS COWBOYS 2013 Record: 8-8

SEP. 7.....SAN FRANCISCO
SEP. 14.....at Tennessee
SEP. 21.....at St. Louis
SEP. 28.....NEW ORLEANS
OCT. 5.....HOUSTON
OCT. 12.....at Seattle
OCT. 19.....NY GIANTS
OCT. 27.....WASHINGTON
NOV. 2.....ARIZONA
NOV. 9.....at Jacksonville (London)
NOV. 16.....Bye
NOV. 23.....at NY Giants
NOV. 27.....PHILADELPHIA
DEC. 4.....at Chicago
DEC. 14.....at Philadelphia
DEC. 21.....INDIANAPOLIS
DEC. 28.....at Washington

DENVER BRONCOS 2013 Record: 13-3

SEP. 7.....INDIANAPOLIS
SEP. 14.....KANSAS CITY
SEP. 21.....at Seattle
SEP. 28.....Bye
OCT. 5.....ARIZONA
OCT. 12.....at NY Jets
OCT. 19.....SAN FRANCISCO
OCT. 23.....SAN DIEGO
NOV. 2.....at New England
NOV. 9.....at Oakland
NOV. 16.....at St. Louis
NOV. 23.....MIAMI
NOV. 30.....at Kansas City
DEC. 7.....BUFFALO
DEC. 14.....at San Diego
DEC. 22.....at Cincinnati
DEC. 28.....OAKLAND

DETROIT LIONS 2013 Record: 7-9

SEP. 8.....NY GIANTS
SEP. 14.....at Carolina
SEP. 21.....GREEN BAY
SEP. 28.....at NY Jets
OCT. 5.....BUFFALO
OCT. 12.....at Minnesota
OCT. 19.....NEW ORLEANS
OCT. 26.....at Atlanta (London)
NOV. 2.....Bye
NOV. 9.....MIAMI
NOV. 16.....at Arizona
NOV. 23.....at New England
NOV. 27.....CHICAGO
DEC. 7.....TAMPA BAY
DEC. 14.....MINNESOTA
DEC. 21.....at Chicago
DEC. 28.....at Green Bay

GREEN BAY PACKERS 2013 Record: 8-7-1

SEP. 4.....at Seattle
SEP. 14.....NY JETS
SEP. 21.....at Detroit
SEP. 28.....at Chicago
OCT. 2.....MINNESOTA
OCT. 12.....at Miami
OCT. 19.....CAROLINA
OCT. 26.....at New Orleans
NOV. 2.....Bye
NOV. 9.....CHICAGO
NOV. 16.....PHILADELPHIA
NOV. 23.....at Minnesota
NOV. 30.....NEW ENGLAND
DEC. 8.....ATLANTA
DEC. 14.....at Buffalo
DEC. 21.....at Tampa Bay
DEC. 28.....DETROIT

HOUSTON TEXANS 2013 Record: 2-14

SEP. 7.....WASHINGTON
SEP. 14.....at Oakland
SEP. 21.....at NY Giants
SEP. 28.....BUFFALO
OCT. 5.....at Dallas
OCT. 9.....INDIANAPOLIS
OCT. 20.....at Pittsburgh
OCT. 26.....at Tennessee
NOV. 2.....PHILADELPHIA
NOV. 9.....Bye
NOV. 16.....at Cleveland
NOV. 23.....CINCINNATI
NOV. 30.....TENNESSEE
DEC. 7.....at Jacksonville
DEC. 14.....at Indianapolis
DEC. 21.....BALTIMORE
DEC. 28.....JACKSONVILLE

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS 2013 Record: 11-5

SEP. 7.....at Denver
SEP. 15.....PHILADELPHIA
SEP. 21.....at Jacksonville
SEP. 28.....TENNESSEE
OCT. 5.....BALTIMORE
OCT. 9.....at Houston
OCT. 19.....CINCINNATI
OCT. 26.....at Pittsburgh
NOV. 3.....at NY Giants
NOV. 9.....Bye
NOV. 16.....NEW ENGLAND
NOV. 23.....JACKSONVILLE
NOV. 30.....WASHINGTON
DEC. 7.....at Cleveland
DEC. 14.....HOUSTON
DEC. 21.....at Dallas
DEC. 28.....at Tennessee

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS 2013 Record: 4-12

SEP. 7.....at Philadelphia
SEP. 14.....at Washington
SEP. 21.....INDIANAPOLIS
SEP. 28.....at San Diego
OCT. 5.....PITTSBURGH
OCT. 12.....at Tennessee
OCT. 19.....CLEVELAND
OCT. 26.....MIAMI
NOV. 2.....at Cincinnati
NOV. 9.....DALLAS (London)
NOV. 16.....Bye
NOV. 23.....at Indianapolis
NOV. 30.....NY GIANTS
DEC. 7.....HOUSTON
DEC. 14.....at Baltimore
DEC. 18.....TENNESSEE
DEC. 28.....at Houston

KANSAS CITY 2013 Record: 11-5

SEP. 7.....TENNESSEE
SEP. 14.....at Denver
SEP. 21.....at Miami
SEP. 29.....NEW ENGLAND
OCT. 5.....at San Francisco
OCT. 12.....Bye
OCT. 19.....at San Diego
OCT. 26.....ST. LOUIS
NOV. 2.....NY JETS
NOV. 9.....at Buffalo
NOV. 16.....SEATTLE
NOV. 20.....at Oakland
NOV. 30.....DENVER
DEC. 7.....at Arizona
DEC. 14.....OAKLAND
DEC. 21.....at Pittsburgh
DEC. 28.....SAN DIEGO

MIAMI DOLPHINS 2013 Record: 8-8

SEP. 7.....NEW ENGLAND
SEP. 14.....at Buffalo
SEP. 21.....KANSAS CITY
SEP. 28.....at Oakland (London)
OCT. 5.....Bye
OCT. 12.....GREEN BAY
OCT. 19.....at Chicago
OCT. 26.....at Jacksonville
NOV. 2.....SAN DIEGO
NOV. 9.....at Detroit
NOV. 13.....BUFFALO
NOV. 23.....at Denver
DEC. 1.....at NY Jets
DEC. 7.....BALTIMORE
DEC. 14.....at New England
DEC. 21.....MINNESOTA
DEC. 28.....NY JETS

MINNESOTA VIKINGS 2013 Record: 5-10-1

SEP. 7.....at St. Louis
SEP. 14.....NEW ENGLAND
SEP. 21.....at New Orleans
SEP. 28.....ATLANTA
OCT. 2.....at Green Bay
OCT. 12.....DETROIT
OCT. 19.....at Buffalo
OCT. 26.....at Tampa Bay
NOV. 2.....WASHINGTON
NOV. 9.....Bye
NOV. 16.....at Chicago
NOV. 23.....GREEN BAY
NOV. 30.....CAROLINA
DEC. 7.....NY JETS
DEC. 14.....at Detroit
DEC. 21.....at Miami
DEC. 28.....CHICAGO

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS 2013 Record: 12-4

SEP. 7.....at Miami
SEP. 14.....at Minnesota
SEP. 21.....OAKLAND
SEP. 29.....at Kansas City
OCT. 5.....CINCINNATI
OCT. 12.....at Buffalo
OCT. 16.....NY JETS
OCT. 26.....CHICAGO
NOV. 2.....DENVER
NOV. 9.....Bye
NOV. 16.....at Indianapolis
NOV. 23.....DETROIT
NOV. 30.....at Green Bay
DEC. 7.....at San Diego
DEC. 14.....MIAMI
DEC. 21.....at NY Jets
DEC. 28.....BUFFALO

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS 2013 Record: 11-5

SEP. 7.....at Atlanta
SEP. 14.....at Cleveland
SEP. 21.....MINNESOTA
SEP. 28.....at Dallas
OCT. 5.....TAMPA BAY
OCT. 12.....Bye
OCT. 19.....at Detroit
OCT. 26.....GREEN BAY
OCT. 30.....at Carolina
NOV. 9.....SAN FRANCISCO
NOV. 16.....CINCINNATI
NOV. 24.....BALTIMORE
NOV. 30.....at Pittsburgh
DEC. 7.....CAROLINA
DEC. 15.....at Chicago
DEC. 21.....ATLANTA
DEC. 28.....at Tampa Bay

2014 NFL Team Schedules

NEW YORK GIANTS

2013 Record: 7-9

SEP. 8	at Detroit
SEP. 14	ARIZONA
SEP. 21	HOUSTON
SEP. 25	at Washington
OCT. 5	ATLANTA
OCT. 12	at Philadelphia
OCT. 19	at Dallas
OCT. 26	Bye
NOV. 3	INDIANAPOLIS
NOV. 9	at Seattle
NOV. 16	SAN FRANCISCO
NOV. 23	DALLAS
NOV. 30	at Jacksonville
DEC. 7	at Tennessee
DEC. 14	WASHINGTON
DEC. 21	at St. Louis
DEC. 28	PHILADELPHIA

NEW YORK JETS

2013 Record: 8-8

SEP. 7	OAKLAND
SEP. 14	at Green Bay
SEP. 22	CHICAGO
SEP. 28	DETROIT
OCT. 5	at San Diego
OCT. 12	DENVER
OCT. 16	at New England
OCT. 26	BUFFALO
NOV. 2	at Kansas City
NOV. 9	PITTSBURGH
NOV. 16	Bye
NOV. 23	at Buffalo
DEC. 1	MIAMI
DEC. 7	at Minnesota
DEC. 14	at Tennessee
DEC. 21	NEW ENGLAND
DEC. 28	at Miami

OAKLAND RAIDERS

2013 Record: 4-12

SEP. 7	at NY Jets
SEP. 14	HOUSTON
SEP. 21	at New England
SEP. 28	MIAMI (London)
OCT. 5	Bye
OCT. 12	SAN DIEGO
OCT. 19	ARIZONA
OCT. 26	at Cleveland
NOV. 2	at Seattle
NOV. 9	DENVER
NOV. 16	at San Diego
NOV. 20	KANSAS CITY
NOV. 30	at St. Louis
DEC. 7	SAN FRANCISCO
DEC. 14	at Kansas City
DEC. 21	BUFFALO
DEC. 28	at Denver

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

2013 Record: 10-6

SEP. 7	JACKSONVILLE
SEP. 15	at Indianapolis
SEP. 21	WASHINGTON
SEP. 28	at San Francisco
OCT. 5	ST. LOUIS
OCT. 12	NY GIANTS
OCT. 19	Bye
OCT. 26	at Arizona
NOV. 2	at Houston
NOV. 10	CAROLINA
NOV. 16	at Green Bay
NOV. 23	TENNESSEE
NOV. 27	at Dallas
DEC. 7	SEATTLE
DEC. 14	DALLAS
DEC. 20	at Washington
DEC. 28	at NY Giants

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

2013 Record: 8-8

SEP. 7	CLEVELAND
SEP. 11	at Baltimore
SEP. 21	at Carolina
SEP. 28	TAMPA BAY
OCT. 5	at Jacksonville
OCT. 12	at Cleveland
OCT. 20	HOUSTON
OCT. 26	INDIANAPOLIS
NOV. 2	BALTIMORE
NOV. 9	at NY Jets
NOV. 17	at Tennessee
NOV. 23	Bye
NOV. 30	NEW ORLEANS
DEC. 7	at Cincinnati
DEC. 14	at Atlanta
DEC. 21	KANSAS CITY
DEC. 28	CINCINNATI

ST. LOUIS RAMS

2013 Record: 7-9

SEP. 7	MINNESOTA
SEP. 14	at Tampa Bay
SEP. 21	DALLAS
SEP. 28	Bye
OCT. 5	at Philadelphia
OCT. 13	SAN FRANCISCO
OCT. 19	SEATTLE
OCT. 26	at Kansas City
NOV. 2	at San Francisco
NOV. 9	at Arizona
NOV. 16	DENVER
NOV. 23	at San Diego
NOV. 30	OAKLAND
DEC. 7	at Washington
DEC. 11	ARIZONA
DEC. 21	NY GIANTS
DEC. 28	at Seattle

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

2013 Record: 9-7

SEP. 8	at Arizona
SEP. 14	SEATTLE
SEP. 21	at Buffalo
SEP. 28	JACKSONVILLE
OCT. 5	NY JETS
OCT. 12	at Oakland
OCT. 19	KANSAS CITY
OCT. 23	at Denver
NOV. 2	at Miami
NOV. 9	Bye
NOV. 16	OAKLAND
NOV. 23	ST. LOUIS
NOV. 30	at Baltimore
DEC. 7	NEW ENGLAND
DEC. 14	DENVER
DEC. 20	at San Francisco
DEC. 28	at Kansas City

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

2013 Record: 12-4

SEP. 7	at Dallas
SEP. 14	CHICAGO
SEP. 21	at Arizona
SEP. 28	PHILADELPHIA
OCT. 5	KANSAS CITY
OCT. 13	at St. Louis
OCT. 19	at Denver
OCT. 26	Bye
NOV. 2	ST. LOUIS
NOV. 9	at New Orleans
NOV. 16	at NY Giants
NOV. 23	WASHINGTON
NOV. 27	SEATTLE
DEC. 7	at Oakland
DEC. 14	at Seattle
DEC. 20	SAN DIEGO
DEC. 28	ARIZONA

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

2013 Record: 13-3

SEP. 4	GREEN BAY
SEP. 14	at San Diego
SEP. 21	DENVER
SEP. 28	Bye
OCT. 6	at Washington
OCT. 12	DALLAS
OCT. 19	at St. Louis
OCT. 26	at Carolina
NOV. 2	OAKLAND
NOV. 9	NY GIANTS
NOV. 16	at Kansas City
NOV. 23	ARIZONA
NOV. 27	at San Francisco
DEC. 7	at Philadelphia
DEC. 14	SAN FRANCISCO
DEC. 21	at Arizona
DEC. 28	ST. LOUIS

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

2013 Record: 4-12

SEP. 7	CAROLINA
SEP. 14	ST. LOUIS
SEP. 18	at Atlanta
SEP. 28	at Pittsburgh
OCT. 5	at New Orleans
OCT. 12	BALTIMORE
OCT. 19	Bye
OCT. 26	MINNESOTA
NOV. 2	at Cleveland
NOV. 9	ATLANTA
NOV. 16	at Washington
NOV. 23	at Chicago
NOV. 30	CINCINNATI
DEC. 7	at Detroit
DEC. 14	at Carolina
DEC. 21	GREEN BAY
DEC. 28	NEW ORLEANS

TENNESSEE TITANS

2013 Record: 7-9

SEP. 7	at Kansas City
SEP. 14	DALLAS
SEP. 21	at Cincinnati
SEP. 28	at Indianapolis
OCT. 5	CLEVELAND
OCT. 12	JACKSONVILLE
OCT. 19	at Washington
OCT. 26	HOUSTON
NOV. 2	Bye
NOV. 9	at Baltimore
NOV. 17	PITTSBURGH
NOV. 23	at Philadelphia
NOV. 30	at Houston
DEC. 7	NY GIANTS
DEC. 14	NY JETS
DEC. 18	at Jacksonville
DEC. 28	INDIANAPOLIS

WASHINGTON

2013 Record: 3-13

SEP. 7	at Houston
SEP. 14	JACKSONVILLE
SEP. 21	at Philadelphia
SEP. 25	NY GIANTS
OCT. 6	SEATTLE
OCT. 12	at Arizona
OCT. 19	TENNESSEE
OCT. 27	at Dallas
NOV. 2	at Minnesota
NOV. 9	Bye
NOV. 16	TAMPA BAY
NOV. 23	at San Francisco
NOV. 30	at Indianapolis
DEC. 7	ST. LOUIS
DEC. 14	at NY Giants
DEC. 20	PHILADELPHIA
DEC. 28	DALLAS

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...Jordan Reed comes off a quiet game, but he should roar back to life here. Only Arizona (8) has allowed more touchdowns to tight ends than Minnesota (7); the Vikings have struggled against the position in most of their games.

Player	No	Yards	TD
Joseph Fauria	3	27	1
Martellus Bennett	7	76	2
Jordan Cameron	6	66	3
Heath Miller	6	70	0
Greg Olsen	2	19	0
Brandon Myers	2	15	0
Andrew Quarless	2	13	0
Jason Witten	8	102	1

Don't assume the Vikings got things sorted out from Week 6-8; Olsen was hobbling around on an injured foot, and neither Myers nor Quarless are big parts of those offenses. Prior to last week, Reed had averaged 94 yards in three games coming back from injury. ... Bad as they are against tight ends, the Vikings have also allowed a lot.

All times Eastern

WEEK 1
Thursday, Sept. 4
Green Bay at Seattle..... 8:30
Sunday, Sept. 7
New Orleans at Atlanta..... 1:00
Cincinnati at Baltimore..... 1:00
Buffalo at Chicago..... 1:00
Washington at Houston..... 1:00
Tennessee at Kansas City..... 1:00
New England at Miami..... 1:00
Oakland at NY Jets..... 1:00
Jacksonville at Philadelphia..... 1:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh..... 1:00
Minnesota at St. Louis..... 1:00
San Francisco at Dallas..... 4:25
Carolina at Tampa Bay..... 4:25
Indianapolis at Denver..... 8:30
Monday, Sept. 8
NY Giants at Detroit..... 7:10
San Diego at Arizona..... 10:20

WEEK 2
Thursday, Sept. 11
Pittsburgh at Baltimore..... 8:25
Sunday, Sept. 14
Miami at Buffalo..... 1:00
Detroit at Carolina..... 1:00
Atlanta at Cincinnati..... 1:00
New Orleans at Cleveland..... 1:00
New England at Minnesota..... 1:00
Arizona at NY Giants..... 1:00
Dallas at Tennessee..... 1:00
Jacksonville at Washington..... 1:00
Seattle at San Diego..... 4:05
St. Louis at Tampa Bay..... 4:05
Kansas City at Denver..... 4:25
NY Jets at Green Bay..... 4:25
Houston at Oakland..... 4:25
Chicago at San Francisco..... 8:30
Monday, Sept. 15
Philadelphia at Indianapolis..... 8:30

WEEK 3
Thursday, Sept. 18
Tampa Bay at Atlanta..... 8:25
Sunday, Sept. 21
San Diego at Buffalo..... 1:00
Tennessee at Cincinnati..... 1:00
Baltimore at Cleveland..... 1:00
Green Bay at Detroit..... 1:00
Indianapolis at Jacksonville..... 1:00
Oakland at New England..... 1:00
Minnesota at New Orleans..... 1:00
Houston at NY Giants..... 1:00
Washington at Philadelphia..... 1:00
Dallas at St. Louis..... 1:00
San Francisco at Arizona..... 4:05
Kansas City at Miami..... 4:25
Denver at Seattle..... 4:25
Pittsburgh at Carolina..... 8:30
Monday, Sept. 22
Chicago at NY Jets..... 8:30

WEEK 4
Bye: Arizona, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Seattle, St. Louis
Thursday, Sept. 25
NY Giants at Washington..... 8:25
Sunday, Sept. 28
Carolina at Baltimore..... 1:00
Green Bay at Chicago..... 1:00
Buffalo at Houston..... 1:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis..... 1:00
Detroit at NY Jets..... 1:00
Miami at Oakland (London)..... 1:00
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh..... 1:00
Jacksonville at San Diego..... 4:05
Atlanta at Minnesota..... 4:25
Phila. at San Francisco..... 4:25
New Orleans at Dallas..... 8:30
Monday, Sept. 29
New England at Kansas City..... 8:30

WEEK 5
Bye: Miami, Oakland
Thursday, Oct. 2
Minnesota at Green Bay..... 8:25
Sunday, Oct. 5
Chicago at Carolina..... 1:00
Houston at Dallas..... 1:00
Buffalo at Detroit..... 1:00
Baltimore at Indianapolis..... 1:00
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville..... 1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans..... 1:00
Atlanta at NY Giants..... 1:00
St. Louis at Philadelphia..... 1:00
Cleveland at Tennessee..... 1:00
Arizona at Denver..... 4:05
NY Jets at San Diego..... 4:25
KC at San Francisco..... 4:25
Cincinnati at New England..... 8:30
Monday, Oct. 6
Seattle at Washington..... 8:30

WEEK 6
Bye: Kansas City, New Orleans
Thursday, Oct. 9
Indianapolis at Houston..... 8:25
Sunday, Oct. 12
Chicago at Atlanta..... 1:00
New England at Buffalo..... 1:00
Carolina at Cincinnati..... 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland..... 1:00
Green Bay at Miami..... 1:00
Detroit at Minnesota..... 1:00
Denver at NY Jets..... 1:00
Baltimore at Tampa Bay..... 1:00
Jacksonville at Tennessee..... 1:00
San Diego at Oakland..... 4:05
Washington at Arizona..... 4:25
Dallas at Seattle..... 4:25
NY Giants at Philadelphia..... 8:30
Monday, Oct. 13
San Francisco at St. Louis..... 8:30

WEEK 7
Bye: Philadelphia, Tampa Bay
Thursday, Oct. 16
NY Jets at New England..... 8:25
Sunday, Oct. 19
Atlanta at Baltimore..... 1:00
Minnesota at Buffalo..... 1:00
Miami at Chicago..... 1:00
New Orleans at Detroit..... 1:00
Carolina at Green Bay..... 1:00
Cincinnati at Indianapolis..... 1:00
Cleveland at Jacksonville..... 1:00
Seattle at St. Louis..... 1:00
Tennessee at Washington..... 1:00
Kansas City at San Diego..... 4:05
NY Giants at Dallas..... 4:25
Arizona at Oakland..... 4:25
San Francisco at Denver..... 8:30
Monday, Oct. 20
Houston at Pittsburgh..... 8:30

WEEK 8
Bye: NY Giants, San Francisco
Thursday, Oct. 23
San Diego at Denver..... 8:25
Sunday, Oct. 26
Detroit at Atlanta (London)..... 9:30a
Seattle at Carolina..... 1:00
Baltimore at Cincinnati..... 1:00
Miami at Jacksonville..... 1:00
St. Louis at Kansas City..... 1:00
Chicago at New England..... 1:00
Buffalo at NY Jets..... 1:00
Minnesota at Tampa Bay..... 1:00
Houston at Tennessee..... 1:00
Philadelphia at Arizona..... 4:05
Oakland at Cleveland..... 4:25
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh..... 4:25
Green Bay at New Orleans..... 8:30
Monday, Oct. 27
Washington at Dallas..... 8:30

WEEK 9
Bye: Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Tennessee
Thursday, Oct. 30
New Orleans at Carolina..... 8:25
Sunday, Nov. 2
Jacksonville at Cincinnati..... 1:00
Tampa Bay at Cleveland..... 1:00
Arizona at Dallas..... 1:00
Philadelphia at Houston..... 1:00
NY Jets at Kansas City..... 1:00
San Diego at Miami..... 1:00
Washington at Minnesota..... 1:00
St. Louis at San Francisco..... 4:05
Denver at New England..... 4:25
Oakland at Seattle..... 4:25
Baltimore at Pittsburgh..... 8:30
Monday, Nov. 3
Indianapolis at NY Giants..... 8:30

WEEK 10
Bye: Houston, Indianapolis, Minnesota, New England, San Diego, Washington
Thursday, Nov. 6
Cleveland at Cincinnati..... 8:25
Sunday, Nov. 9
Tennessee at Baltimore..... 1:00
Kansas City at Buffalo..... 1:00
Miami at Detroit..... 1:00
Dallas at Jksnville (London)..... 1:00
San Fran. at New Orleans..... 1:00
Pittsburgh at NY Jets..... 1:00
Atlanta at Tampa Bay..... 1:00
Denver at Oakland..... 4:05
St. Louis at Arizona..... 4:25
NY Giants at Seattle..... 4:25
Chicago at Green Bay..... 8:30
Monday, Nov. 10
Carolina at Philadelphia..... 8:30

WEEK 11
Bye: Baltimore, Dallas, Jacksonville, NY Jets
Thursday, Nov. 13
Buffalo at Miami..... 8:25
Sunday, Nov. 16
Atlanta at Carolina..... 1:00
Minnesota at Chicago..... 1:00
Houston at Cleveland..... 1:00
Philadelphia at Green Bay..... 1:00
Seattle at Kansas City..... 1:00
Cincinnati at New Orleans..... 1:00
San Francisco at NY Giants..... 1:00
Denver at St. Louis..... 1:00
Tampa Bay at Washington..... 1:00
Oakland at San Diego..... 4:05
Detroit at Arizona..... 4:25
New England at Indnpls..... 8:30
Monday, Nov. 17
Pittsburgh at Tennessee..... 8:30

WEEK 12
Bye: Carolina, Pittsburgh
Thursday, Nov. 20
Kansas City at Oakland..... 8:25
Sunday, Nov. 23
Cleveland at Atlanta..... 1:00
NY Jets at Buffalo..... 1:00
Tampa Bay at Chicago..... 1:00
Cincinnati at Houston..... 1:00
Jacksonville at Indianapolis..... 1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota..... 1:00
Detroit at New England..... 1:00
Tennessee at Philadelphia..... 1:00
St. Louis at San Diego..... 4:05
Arizona at Seattle..... 4:05
Miami at Denver..... 4:25
Wash. at San Francisco..... 4:25
Dallas at NY Giants..... 8:30
Monday, Nov. 24
Baltimore at New Orleans..... 8:30

WEEK 13
Thursday, Nov. 27
Chicago at Detroit..... 12:30
Philadelphia at Dallas..... 4:30
Seattle at San Francisco..... 8:30
Sunday, Nov. 30
San Diego at Baltimore..... 1:00
Cleveland at Buffalo..... 1:00
Tennessee at Houston..... 1:00
Washington at Indianapolis..... 1:00
NY Giants at Jacksonville..... 1:00
Carolina at Minnesota..... 1:00
New Orleans at Pittsburgh..... 1:00
Oakland at St. Louis..... 1:00
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay..... 1:00
Arizona at Atlanta..... 4:05
New England at Green Bay..... 4:25
Denver at Kansas City..... 8:30
Monday, Dec. 1
Miami at NY Jets..... 8:30

WEEK 14
Thursday, Dec. 4
Dallas at Chicago..... 8:25
Sunday, Dec. 7
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati..... 1:00
Indianapolis at Cleveland..... 1:00
Tampa Bay at Detroit..... 1:00
Houston at Jacksonville..... 1:00
Baltimore at Miami..... 1:00
NY Jets at Minnesota..... 1:00
Carolina at New Orleans..... 1:00
NY Giants at Tennessee..... 1:00
St. Louis at Washington..... 1:00
Kansas City at Arizona..... 4:05
Buffalo at Denver..... 4:05
San Francisco at Oakland..... 4:25
Seattle at Philadelphia..... 4:25
New England at San Diego..... 8:30
Monday, Dec. 8
Atlanta at Green Bay..... 8:30

WEEK 15
Thursday, Dec. 11
Arizona at St. Louis..... 8:25
Sunday, Dec. 14
Pittsburgh at Atlanta..... 1:00
Jacksonville at Baltimore..... 1:00
Green Bay at Buffalo..... 1:00
Tampa Bay at Carolina..... 1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland..... 1:00
Minnesota at Detroit..... 1:00
Houston at Indianapolis..... 1:00
Oakland at Kansas City..... 1:00
Miami at New England..... 1:00
Washington at NY Giants..... 1:00
Denver at San Diego..... 4:05
NY Jets at Tennessee..... 4:05
San Francisco at Seattle..... 4:25
Dallas at Philadelphia..... 8:30
Monday, Dec. 15
New Orleans at Chicago..... 8:30

WEEK 16
Thursday, Dec. 18
Tennessee at Jacksonville..... 8:25
Saturday, Dec. 20
San Diego at San Francisco TBD
Philadelphia at Washington TBD
Sunday, Dec. 21
Cleveland at Carolina..... 1:00
Detroit at Chicago..... 1:00
Baltimore at Houston..... 1:00
Minnesota at Miami..... 1:00
Atlanta at New Orleans..... 1:00
New England at NY Jets..... 1:00
Kansas City at Pittsburgh..... 1:00
Green Bay at Tampa Bay..... 1:00
NY Giants at St. Louis..... 4:05
Indianapolis at Dallas..... 4:25
Buffalo at Oakland..... 4:25
Seattle at Arizona..... 8:30
Monday, Dec. 22
Denver at Cincinnati..... 8:30

WEEK 17
*Sun. night game TBD
Sunday, Dec. 28
Carolina at Atlanta..... 1:00
Cleveland at Baltimore..... 1:00
Detroit at Green Bay..... 1:00
Jacksonville at Houston..... 1:00
San Diego at Kansas City..... 1:00
NY Jets at Miami..... 1:00
Cincinnati at Minnesota..... 1:00
Buffalo at New England..... 1:00
Philadelphia at NY Giants..... 1:00
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh..... 1:00
New Orleans at Tampa Bay..... 1:00
Indianapolis at Tennessee..... 1:00
Dallas at Washington..... 1:00
Oakland at Denver..... 4:25
Arizona at San Francisco..... 4:25
St. Louis at Seattle..... 4:25

Sunday night games for Weeks 5-17 subject to change

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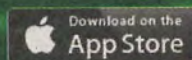


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TD-ONLY LEAGUES

Ratings show the expected starts, touchdowns (pass-run-rec-ret) per game and fantasy points per game, using the scoring system of 6 points for TDs (run-rec-ret) and 4 points for TD passes.

QUARTERBACKS

Bye	Starts	TD	FPG
1. DEN 4 Manning	15	2.34	9.4
2. NO 6 Brees	15	2.33	9.4
3. GB 9 Rodgers	15	2.25	9.1
4. NE 10 Brady	15	2.04	8.3
5. PHI 7 Foles	15	1.99	8.3
6. DET 9 Stafford	15	1.93	7.9
7. IND 10 Luck	15	1.83	7.8
8. CIN 4 Dalton	15	1.85	7.6
9. SEA 4 Wilson	15	1.82	7.5
10. DAL 11 Romo	14	1.90	7.7
11. SF 8 Kaepernick	15	1.72	7.3
12. ATL 9 Ryan	15	1.81	7.3
13. SD 10 Rivers	15	1.79	7.2
14. CHI 9 Cutler	14	1.84	7.5
15. CAR 12 Newton	15	1.61	7.0
16. WAS 10 Griffin	14	1.67	7.1
17. PIT 12 Roethlisberger	14	1.68	6.8
18. NYG 8 Manning	15	1.54	6.2
19. ARI 4 Palmer	15	1.54	6.2
20. BAL 11 Flacco	15	1.48	6.0
21. STL 4 Bradford	15	1.49	6.0
22. MIA 5 Tannehill	15	1.46	6.0
23. KC 6 A.Smith	15	1.43	5.8
24. TEN 9 Locker	13	1.46	6.1
25. BUF 9 Manuel	14	1.30	5.5
26. HOU 10 Fitzpatrick	13	1.40	5.7
27. TB 7 McCown	13	1.42	5.7
28. CLE 4 Manziel	9	1.37	5.9
29. MIN 10 Bridgewater	10	1.30	5.3
30. NYJ 11 Smith	9	1.28	5.6
31. JAC 11 Henne	9	1.30	5.3

TIGHT ENDS

Bye	Starts	TD	FPG
1. NO 6 Graham	15	.69	4.1
2. DEN 4 J.Thomas	15	.52	3.1
3. SF 8 Davis	15	.50	3.0
4. NE 10 Gronkowski	11	.63	3.8
5. MIN 10 Rudolph	15	.38	2.3
6. CAR 12 Olsen	15	.36	2.2
7. PIT 12 Miller	14	.37	2.2
8. PHI 7 Ertz	15	.35	2.1
9. MIA 5 Clay	15	.34	2.0
10. BAL 11 Pitta	15	.33	2.0
11. SEA 4 Miller	15	.32	1.9
12. CLE 4 Cameron	15	.31	1.9
13. ATL 9 Toilolo	13	.36	2.2
14. SD 10 Green	15	.30	1.8
15. DET 9 Ebron	15	.30	1.8
16. DAL 11 Witten	15	.30	1.8
17. STL 4 Cook	15	.30	1.8
18. CHI 9 Bennett	15	.29	1.7
19. TEN 9 Walker	15	.28	1.7
20. HOU 10 Graham	15	.28	1.7
21. PHI 7 Celek	15	.27	1.6
22. IND 10 Fleener	15	.28	1.7
23. JAC 11 Lewis	15	.27	1.6
24. UFA 9 Finley	8	.33	2.0
25. STL 4 Kendrick	15	.24	1.5
26. SD 10 Gates	14	.25	1.5
27. CIN 4 Eifert	15	.23	1.4
28. WAS 10 Reed	14	.24	1.4
29. CIN 4 Gresham	15	.21	1.3
30. KC 6 Fasano	14	.22	1.3

RUNNING BACKS

Bye	Starts	TD	FPG
1. SEA 4 Lynch	14	.84	5.1
2. MIN 10 Peterson	14	.84	5.0
3. CHI 9 Forte	14	.82	4.9
4. KC 6 Charles	14	.78	4.7
5. GB 9 Lacy	15	.74	4.4
6. PHI 7 McCoy	14	.74	4.4
7. DEN 4 Ball	14	.69	4.1
8. HOU 10 Foster	14	.65	3.9
9. DAL 11 Murray	13	.63	3.8
10. CIN 4 Bernard	15	.53	3.2
11. WAS 10 Morris	14	.53	3.2
12. PIT 12 Bell	14	.53	3.2
13. STL 4 Stacy	14	.54	3.2
14. NE 10 Ridley	15	.48	2.9
15. NE 10 Vereen	15	.48	2.9
16. SF 8 Gore	13	.53	3.2
17. TB 7 Martin	14	.49	3.0
18. DET 9 Bell	3	.64	3.9
19. JAC 11 Gerhart	14	.48	2.9
20. SD 10 Woodhead (3rd)	15	.45	2.7
21. ATL 9 Jackson	13	.53	3.2
22. NE 10 Bolden	15	.44	2.6
23. SD 10 Mathews	13	.49	3.0
24. OAK 5 Jones-Drew	14	.45	2.7
25. BAL 11 Rice	12	.53	3.2
26. NYG 8 Jennings	14	.45	2.7
27. MIA 5 Miller	9	.50	3.0
28. ARI 4 Ellington	14	.41	2.5
29. CLE 4 Tate	13	.43	2.6
30. CIN 4 Hill	12	.43	2.6
31. NYJ 11 Johnson	15	.38	2.3
32. BUF 9 Jackson	12	.43	2.6
33. IND 10 Richardson	15	.35	2.1
34. BAL 11 Pierce	4	.58	3.5
35. NO 6 Thomas	15	.35	2.1
36. NYJ 11 Ivory	15	.35	2.1
37. DET 9 Bush	13	.40	2.4
38. MIA 5 Moreno	6	.49	2.9
39. CAR 12 Tolbert (FB)	15	.33	2.0
40. TEN 9 Greene	15	.32	1.9
41. ARI 4 Dwyer	8	.39	2.3
42. TEN 9 Sankey	15	.31	1.9
43. PIT 12 Blount	2	.61	3.7
44. NO 6 Robinson	15	.30	1.8
45. BUF 9 Dixon	6	.40	2.4
46. NYG 8 A.Williams	2	.50	3.0
47. BUF 9 Spiller	14	.29	1.7
48. SF 8 Hyde	2	.67	4.0
49. ARI 4 Taylor	6	.39	2.3
50. KC 6 Thomas (3rd)	15	.26	1.6
51. NO 6 Ingram	14	.26	1.6
52. OAK 5 McFadden	14	.26	1.6
53. ATL 9 Freeman	4	.47	2.8
54. DEN 4 Hillman	1	.70	4.2
55. STL 4 Mason	2	.52	3.1
56. PHI 7 Polk	2	.66	3.9
57. GB 9 Starks	1	.62	3.7
58. TEN 9 McCluster (3rd)	14	.25	1.5
59. SD 10 D.Brown	3	.49	2.9
60. CAR 12 Williams	15	.23	1.4
61. KC 6 Davis	2	.60	3.6
62. BUF 9 Brown	6	.29	1.8
63. IND 10 Ballard	10	.33	2.0
64. CIN 4 Green-Ellis	4	.28	1.7
65. ATL 9 Rodgers	4	.34	2.0
66. TB 7 Sims	1	.45	2.7
67. TB 7 James	3	.32	1.9
68. NYG 8 Wilson	5	.27	1.6
69. PHI 7 Sproles (3rd)	13	.21	1.3
70. HOU 10 A.Brown	2	.50	3.0
71. CHI 9 Carey	2	.60	3.6

WIDE RECEIVERS

Bye	Starts	TD	FPG
1. DET 9 Johnson	15	.65	3.9
2. DEN 4 D.Thomas	15	.63	3.8
3. DAL 11 Bryant	15	.62	3.7
4. GB 9 Nelson	15	.61	3.7
5. GB 9 Cobb	15	.60	3.6
6. CHI 9 Marshall	15	.59	3.5
7. CIN 4 Green	15	.55	3.3
8. NE 10 Edelman	15	.54	3.2
9. DEN 4 Welker	14	.55	3.3
10. CHI 9 Jeffery	15	.50	3.0
11. ATL 9 Jones	15	.50	3.0
12. ARI 4 Fitzgerald	15	.49	2.9
13. SD 10 Allen	15	.48	2.9
14. ATL 9 White	15	.46	2.8
15. PIT 12 Brown	15	.46	2.8
16. TB 7 Jackson	15	.45	2.7
17. DAL 11 T.Williams	15	.43	2.6
18. PHI 7 Cooper	15	.41	2.4
19. NO 6 Cooks	15	.41	2.4
20. SEA 4 Harvin	14	.42	2.5
21. NYG 8 Cruz	15	.39	2.3
22. ARI 4 Floyd	15	.38	2.3
23. HOU 10 Johnson	15	.38	2.3
24. IND 10 Hilton	15	.37	2.2
25. WAS 10 Jackson	15	.37	2.2
26. DET 9 Tate	15	.37	2.2
27. MIN 10 Patterson	15	.37	2.2
28. STL 4 Austin	15	.37	2.2
29. SF 8 Crabtree	15	.35	2.1
30. WAS 10 Garcon	15	.35	2.1
31. NO 6 Stills	15	.35	2.1
32. NO 6 Colston	13	.39	2.3
33. NE 10 Dobson	11	.36	2.1
34. TB 7 Evans	15	.34	2.0
35. HOU 10 Hopkins	15	.33	2.0
36. SEA 4 Kearse	15	.33	2.0
37. CIN 4 M.Jones	15	.32	1.9
38. MIA 5 Wallace	15	.32	1.9
39. SEA 4 Baldwin	15	.31	1.9
40. SF 8 Boldin	14	.34	2.0
41. DEN 4 Sanders	15	.31	1.8
42. TEN 9 Hunter	15	.30	1.8
43. MIA 5 Hartline	15	.30	1.8
44. PHI 7 Maclin	15	.30	1.8
45. PIT 12 Wheaton	14	.32	1.9
46. KC 6 Bowe	15	.29	1.8
47. NYG 8 Randle	14	.31	1.9
48. IND 10 Wayne	13	.31	1.9
49. CAR 12 Cotchery	15	.28	1.7
50. BAL 11 T.Smith	15	.27	1.6
51. BUF 9 Watkins	15	.27	1.6
52. MIN 10 Jennings	15	.27	1.6
53. TEN 9 Wright	15	.27	1.6
54. NYG 8 Beckham (3WR)	15	.26	1.6
55. NYJ 11 Decker	15	.26	1.6
56. CLE 4 Hawkins	14	.26	1.6
57. CLE 4 Gordon	7	.40	2.4
58. CAR 12 Benjamin	15	.24	1.5
59. OAK 5 D.Moore	15	.25	1.5
60. SD 10 Royal	14	.26	1.6
61. NYJ 11 Kerley	15	.23	1.4
62. JAC 11 Shorts	14	.25	1.5
63. CAR 12 Avant	15	.23	1.4
64. GB 9 Boykin (3WR)	15	.23	1.4
65. BUF 9 Woods	15	.22	1.3
66. BAL 11 S.Smith	15	.23	1.4
67. OAK 5 Jones	15	.22	1.3
68. BUF 9 M.Williams	14	.23	1.4
69. BAL 11 Brown	15	.21	1.3
70. TEN 9 Washington	15	.21	1.3
71. WAS 10 Roberts (3WR)	15	.21	1.3

OVERALL TOP 35

1 Lynch; 2 Peterson; 3 Forte;
4 Charles; 5 Lacy; 6 Graham;
7 McCoy; 8 C.Johnson; 9 Ball;
10 D.Thomas; 11 Bryant; 12 Nelson;
13 Cobb; 14 Marshall; 15 Foster;
16 P.Manning; 17 Brees; 18 Green;
19 Edelman; 20 Murray; 21 Thomas;
22 Welker; 23 V.Davis; 24 Bernard;
25 Jeffery; 26 J.Jones; 27 Fitzgerald;
28 Allen; 29 Rodgers; 30 Morris;
31 Gronkowski; 32 L.Bell; 33 Stacy;
34 White; 35 A.Brown.

KICKERS

Bye	Starts	PPG
1. NE 10 S. Gostkowski	16	8.9
2. SF 8 Phil Dawson	16	8.6
3. BAL 11 Justin Tucker	16	8.5
4. DEN 4 Matt Prater	16	8.4
5. SEA 4 S. Hauschka	16	8.3
6. GB 9 Mason Crosby	16	8.2
7. IND 10 Adam Vinatieri	16	7.9
8. SD 10 Nick Novak	16	7.8
9. CHI 9 Robbie Gould	16	7.8
10. CIN 4 Mike Nugent	16	7.7
11. DAL 11 Dan Bailey	16	7.7
12. PIT 12 S. Suisham	16	7.6
13. MIN 10 Blair Walsh	16	7.4
14. STL 4 Greg Zuerlein	16	7.3
15. PHI 7 Alex Henery	16	7.3
16. KC 6 Ryan Succop	16	7.2
17. MIA 5 Caleb Sturgis	16	7.1
18. NYJ 11 Nick Folk	16	7.1
19. NO 6 S. Graham	14	8.0
20. ARI 4 Jay Feely	15	7.3
21. TB 7 Connor Barth	16	6.9
22. ATL 9 Matt Bryant	14	7.8
23. BUF 9 Dan Carpenter	15	7.3
24. CAR 12 Graham Gano	16	6.7
25. JAC 11 Josh Scobee	16	6.6
26. NYG 8 Josh Brown	16	6.8

DEFENSES & SPECIAL TEAMS

Bye	TD	FPG
1. STL 4 Rams	.30	1.8
2. NO 6 Saints	.29	1.7
3. NE 10 Patriots	.29	1.7
4. KC 6 Kansas City	.29	1.7
5. SEA 4 Seahawks	.28	1.7
6. CAR 12 Panthers	.28	1.7
7. SF 8 49ers	.27	1.6
8. BAL 11 Ravens	.26	1.6
9. CIN 4 Bengals	.26	1.5
10. CHI 9 Bears	.26	1.5
11. BUF 9 Bills	.25	1.5
12. DET 9 Lions	.25	1.5
13. DAL 11 Cowboys	.25	1.5
14. ARI 4 Cardinals	.24	1.5
15. MIN 10 Vikings	.24	1.5
16. DEN 4 Broncos	.24	1.4
17. MIA 5 Dolphins	.24	1.4
18. NYJ 11 Jets	.24	1.4
19. NYG 8 Giants	.23	1.4
20. TB 7 Buccaneers	.23	1.4
21. TEN 9 Titans	.23	1.4
22. CLE 4 Browns	.23	1.4
23. IND 10 Colts	.23	1.4
24. GB 9 Packers	.22	1.3

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PERFORMANCE LEAGUES

For all players ratings include per-game projected total yards, total touchdowns and fantasy points per game. The other numbers are the player's bye week and the projected number of games in which he'll play a featured, starting role. Defenses get 6 points for touchdowns, 2 for takeaways and 1 for sacks. Individuals ranked by the following scoring system:

Passing TD..... 4 pts
Run/catch/return TD..... 6 pts
10 yards run/rec..... 1 pt
20 yards passing..... 1 pt
Return TD (takeaway or kick)..... 6 pts
Sacks / takeaways..... 1/2 pts

QUARTERBACKS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. DEN 4 Manning	15	307	2.34	24.8
2. NO 6 Brees	15	307	2.33	24.9
3. GB 9 Rodgers	15	302	2.25	25.0
4. DET 9 Stafford	15	297	1.93	23.0
5. NE 10 Brady	15	284	2.04	22.6
6. PHI 7 Foles	15	269	1.99	22.6
7. IND 10 Luck	15	276	1.83	22.5
8. ATL 9 Ryan	15	284	1.81	21.6
9. CAR 12 Newton	15	257	1.61	21.5
10. SF 8 Kaepernick	15	254	1.72	21.5
11. WAS 10 Griffin	14	285	1.67	22.9
12. CIN 4 Dalton	15	267	1.85	21.4
13. SEA 4 Wilson	15	246	1.82	21.2
14. CHI 9 Cutler	14	268	1.84	21.4
15. SD 10 Rivers	15	261	1.79	20.5
16. DAL 11 Romo	14	273	1.90	21.5
17. NYG 8 Manning	15	254	1.54	19.0
18. ARI 4 Palmer	15	261	1.54	19.3
19. PIT 12 Roethlisberger	14	259	1.68	19.9
20. MIA 5 Tannehill	15	251	1.46	19.3
21. KC 6 A.Smith	15	238	1.43	18.7
22. BAL 11 Flacco	15	251	1.48	18.7
23. STL 4 Bradford	15	226	1.49	17.5
24. TEN 9 Locker	13	245	1.46	19.4
25. BUF 9 Manuel	14	236	1.30	18.1
26. HOU 10 Fitzpatrick	13	242	1.40	18.6
27. TB 7 McCown	13	238	1.42	18.0
28. CLE 4 Manziel	9	237	1.37	19.2
29. NYJ 11 G.Smith	9	228	1.28	18.0
30. MIN 10 Bridgewater	10	228	1.30	17.2

TIGHT ENDS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. NO 6 Graham	15	75	.69	11.7
2. DEN 4 J.Thomas	15	56	.52	8.7
3. NE 10 Gronkowski	11	68	.63	10.6
4. SF 8 Davis	15	48	.50	7.8
5. CAR 12 Olsen	15	52	.36	7.4
6. DAL 11 Witten	15	52	.30	6.9
7. CLE 4 Cameron	15	49	.31	6.8
8. MIN 10 Rudolph	15	45	.38	6.8
9. MIA 5 Clay	15	44	.34	6.5
10. PIT 12 Miller	14	44	.37	6.6
11. PHI 7 Ertz	15	41	.35	6.2
12. CHI 9 Bennett	15	45	.29	6.2
13. BAL 11 Pitta	15	41	.33	6.1
14. STL 4 Cook	15	43	.30	6.1
15. SD 10 Green	15	42	.30	6.0
16. DET 9 Ebron	15	38	.30	5.6
17. IND 10 Fleener	15	38	.28	5.4
18. HOU 10 Graham	15	35	.28	5.1
19. WAS 10 Reed	14	41	.24	5.5
20. PHI 7 Celek	15	33	.27	5.0
21. UFA 9 Finley	8	44	.33	6.3
22. TEN 9 Walker	15	32	.28	4.8
23. SD 10 Gates	14	36	.25	5.1
24. CIN 4 Eifert	15	34	.23	4.8

RUNNING BACKS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. PHI 7 McCoy	14	111	.74	15.6
2. MIN 10 Peterson	14	109	.84	15.9
3. KC 6 Charles	14	108	.78	15.5
4. CHI 9 Forte	14	107	.82	15.6
5. SEA 4 Lynch	14	101	.84	15.1
6. GB 9 Lacy	15	95	.74	14.0
7. DEN 4 Ball	14	94	.69	13.5
8. HOU 10 Foster	14	96	.65	13.5
9. DAL 11 Murray	13	97	.63	13.5
10. PIT 12 Bell	14	87	.53	11.9
11. CIN 4 Bernard	15	81	.53	11.3
12. STL 4 Stacy	14	87	.54	11.9
13. WAS 10 Morris	14	81	.53	11.3
14. JAC 11 Gerhart	14	79	.48	10.8
15. TB 7 Martin	14	80	.49	11.0
16. ARI 4 Ellington	14	84	.41	10.9
17. SD 10 Mathews	13	85	.49	11.5
18. NYJ 11 Johnson	15	80	.38	10.3
19. NE 10 Vereen	15	71	.48	10.0
20. DET 9 Bush	13	87	.40	11.0
21. BAL 11 Rice	12	88	.53	12.0
22. BUF 9 Spiller	14	76	.29	9.4
23. MIA 5 Miller	9	83	.50	11.3
24. DET 9 Bell	3	93	.64	13.2
25. CLE 4 Tate	13	75	.43	10.1
26. OAK 5 Jones-Drew	14	66	.45	9.3
27. NYG 8 Jennings	14	65	.45	9.2
28. SF 8 Gore	13	65	.53	9.7
29. NE 10 Ridley	15	55	.48	8.4
30. TEN 9 Sankey	15	62	.31	8.1
31. ATL 9 S.Jackson	13	62	.53	9.3
32. IND 10 Richardson	15	56	.35	7.7
33. NO 6 Thomas	15	55	.35	7.6
34. MIA 5 Moreno	6	82	.49	11.1
35. BAL 11 Pierce	4	89	.58	12.4
36. NE 10 Bolden	15	50	.44	7.6
37. SD 10 Woodhead (3rd)	15	48	.45	7.5
38. CIN 4 Hill	12	58	.43	8.4
39. NO 6 Robinson	15	54	.30	7.2
40. BUF 9 Jackson	12	57	.43	8.3
41. CAR 12 Williams	15	54	.23	6.7
42. TEN 9 Greene	15	42	.32	6.1
43. PIT 12 Blount	2	78	.61	11.5
44. OAK 5 McFadden	14	49	.26	6.4
45. SF 8 Hyde	2	88	.67	12.8
46. BUF 9 Brown	6	57	.29	7.5
47. STL 4 Mason	2	86	.52	11.7
48. NYJ 11 Ivory	15	35	.35	5.5
49. PHI 7 Polk	2	98	.66	13.7
50. TEN 9 McCluster (3rd)	14	44	.25	5.9
51. NO 6 Ingram	14	43	.26	5.9
52. NYG 8 A.Williams	2	64	.50	9.4
53. SD 10 D.Brown	3	82	.49	11.1
54. GB 9 Starks	1	80	.62	11.6
55. ATL 9 Freeman	4	67	.47	9.5
56. KC 6 Davis	2	89	.60	12.6
57. ARI 4 Dwyer	8	40	.39	6.4
58. TB 7 Sims	1	73	.45	10.0
59. DEN 4 Hillman	1	94	.70	13.6
60. ARI 4 Taylor	6	48	.39	7.1
61. IND 10 Ballard	10	52	.33	7.2
62. CAR 12 Stewart	13	44	.18	5.5
63. KC 6 Thomas (3rd)	15	31	.26	4.7
64. CAR 12 Tolbert (FB)	15	26	.33	4.6
65. ATL 9 Rodgers	4	51	.34	7.1
66. NYG 8 Wilson	5	51	.27	6.7
67. PHI 7 Sproles (3rd)	13	36	.21	4.9
68. HOU 10 A.Brown	2	74	.50	10.5
69. CIN 4 Green-Ellis	4	39	.28	5.5
70. DEN 4 Anderson	1	82	.62	12.0
71. IND 10 Bradshaw	6	49	.29	6.7

WIDE RECEIVERS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. DET 9 Johnson	15	97	.65	13.6
2. DEN 4 D.Thomas	15	88	.63	12.6
3. DAL 11 Bryant	15	81	.62	11.8
4. GB 9 Nelson	15	81	.61	11.7
5. CIN 4 Green	15	84	.55	11.7
6. GB 9 Cobb	15	78	.60	11.4
7. ATL 9 Jones	15	83	.50	11.3
8. PIT 12 Brown	15	83	.46	11.1
9. NE 10 Edelman	15	78	.54	11.0
10. CHI 9 Marshall	15	75	.59	11.0
11. CHI 9 Jeffery	15	80	.50	11.0
12. ATL 9 White	15	76	.46	10.3
13. TB 7 Jackson	15	75	.45	10.2
14. HOU 10 Johnson	15	79	.38	10.1
15. ARI 4 Fitzgerald	15	68	.49	9.7
16. SD 10 Allen	15	65	.48	9.4
17. NYG 8 Cruz	15	69	.39	9.2
18. ARI 4 Floyd	15	67	.38	8.9
19. WAS 10 Jackson	15	65	.37	8.7
20. DEN 4 Welker	14	60	.55	9.2
21. PHI 7 Cooper	15	58	.41	8.2
22. MIA 5 Wallace	15	63	.32	8.2
23. DAL 11 T.Williams	15	56	.43	8.2
24. BAL 11 T.Smith	15	64	.27	8.0
25. SF 8 Crabtree	15	59	.35	8.0
26. WAS 10 Garcon	15	59	.35	7.9
27. MIN 10 Patterson	15	56	.37	7.9
28. IND 10 Hilton	15	56	.37	7.8
29. MIA 5 Hartline	15	59	.30	7.7
30. SEA 4 Harvin	14	57	.42	8.3
31. NO 6 Cooks	15	51	.41	7.6
32. HOU 10 Hopkins	15	55	.33	7.5
33. DET 9 Tate	15	52	.37	7.5
34. TB 7 Evans	15	54	.34	7.4
35. STL 4 Austin	15	50	.37	7.2
36. KC 6 Bowe	15	53	.29	7.0
37. TEN 9 Wright	15	54	.27	7.0
38. NYJ 11 Decker	15	54	.26	7.0
39. NO 6 Colston	13	55	.39	7.9
40. SF 8 Boldin	14	54	.34	7.4
41. BUF 9 Watkins	15	52	.27	6.8
42. PIT 12 Wheaton	14	53	.32	7.2
43. NO 6 Stills	15	46	.35	6.7
44. NE 10 Dobson	11	48	.36	7.0
45. SEA 4 Baldwin	15	48	.31	6.7
46. MIN 10 Jennings	15	50	.27	6.6
47. PHI 7 Maclin	15	47	.30	6.4
48. OAK 5 Moore	15	51	.25	6.5
49. TEN 9 Hunter	15	45	.30	6.3
50. JAC 11 Shorts	14	53	.25	6.8
51. CIN 4 M.Jones	15	44	.32	6.3
52. IND 10 Wayne	13	49	.31	6.8
53. CAR 12 Cotchery	15	46	.28	6.2
54. DEN 4 Sanders	15	44	.31	6.2
55. NYJ 11 Kerley	15	48	.23	6.2
56. CLE 4 Hawkins	14	49	.26	6.5
57. CLE 4 Gordon	7	73	.40	9.7
58. NYG 8 Randle	14	46	.31	6.5
59. OAK 5 J.Jones	15	46	.22	5.9
60. SEA 4 Kearse	15	39	.33	5.9
61. BUF 9 Woods	15	44	.22	5.7
62. BAL 11 S.Smith	15	45	.23	5.9
63. CAR 12 Benjamin	15	41	.24	5.5
64. NYG 8 Beckham (3WR)	15	39	.26	5.5
65. CLE 4 Austin	10	45	.24	6.0
66. CAR 12 Avant	15	38	.23	5.2
67. SD 10 Royal	14	40	.26	5.5
68. WAS 10 Roberts (3WR)	15	38	.21	5.1
69. ATL 9 Douglas (3WR)	15	40	.18	5.1
70. BUF 9 M.Williams	14	40	.23	5.4
71. JAC 11 M.Lee	9	42	.22	5.5

OVERALL TOP 35

1 McCoy; 2 Peterson; 3 Charles;
4 Forte; 5 Lynch; 6 C.Johnson; 7 Lacy;
8 D.Thomas; 9 Ball; 10 Graham;
11 Foster; 12 Manning; 13 Brees;
14 Bryant; 15 Nelson; 16 Green;
17 Rodgers; 18 Cobb; 19 Murray;
20 J.Jones; 21 A.Brown; 22 Edelman;
23 Marshall; 24 Jeffery; 25 Bell;
26 Bernard; 27 Stacy; 28 Morris;
29 White; 30 V.Jackson; 31 A.Johnson;
32 Stafford; 33 Gerhart; 34 Martin;
35 Ellington.

KICKERS

Bye	Starts	PPG
1. NE 10 S.Gostkowski	16	8.9
2. SF 8 Phil Dawson	16	8.6
3. BAL 11 Justin Tucker	16	8.5
4. DEN 4 Matt Prater	16	8.4
5. SEA 4 S.Hauschka	16	8.3
6. GB 9 Mason Crosby	16	8.2
7. IND 10 Adam Vinatieri	16	7.9
8. SD 10 Nick Novak	16	7.8
9. CHI 9 Robbie Gould	16	7.8
10. CIN 4 Mike Nugent	16	7.7
11. DAL 11 Dan Bailey	16	7.7
12. PIT 12 S.Suisham	16	7.6
13. MIN 10 Blair Walsh	16	7.4
14. STL 4 Greg Zuerlein	16	7.3
15. PHI 7 Alex Henery	16	7.3
16. KC 6 Ryan Succop	16	7.2
17. MIA 5 Caleb Sturgis	16	7.1
18. NYJ 11 Nick Folk	16	7.1
19. NO 6 S.Graham	14	8.0
20. ARI 4 Jay Feely	15	7.3
21. TB 7 Connor Barth	16	6.9
22. ATL 9 Matt Bryant	14	7.8
23. BUF 9 Dan Carpenter	15	7.3
24. CAR 12 Graham Gano	16	6.7
25. JAC 11 Josh Scobee	16	6.6
26. NYG 8 Josh Brown	16	6.8

DEFENSES & SPECIAL TEAMS

	Bye	Take	Sack	TD	FPG
1. SEA	4	2.0	2.6	.28	8.2
2. STL	4	1.6	3.3	.30	8.2
3. DEN	4	1.7	3.1	.24	7.9
4. CAR	12	1.7	2.9	.28	7.9
5. NO	6	1.6	2.9	.29	7.9
6. NE	10	1.8	2.5	.29	7.8
7. BUF	9	1.6	2.8	.25	7.6
8. CIN	4	1.7	2.6	.26	7.6
9. KC	6	1.8	2.3	.29	7.5
10. SF	8	1.8	2.3	.27	7.4
11. CHI	9	1.7	2.4	.26	7.4
12. MIA	5	1.7	2.6	.24	7.3
13. GB	9	1.6	2.6	.22	7.2
14. NYG	8	1.6	2.5	.23	7.2
15. BAL	11	1.6	2.4	.26	7.1
16. CLE	4	1.7	2.4	.23	7.1
17. ARI	4	1.6	2.3	.24	7.0
18. TB	7	1.6	2.4	.23	6.9
19. HOU	10	1.6	2.5	.22	6.9
20. DET	9	1.6	2.3	.25	6.9
21. NYJ	11	1.6	2.3	.24	6.9
22. TEN	9	1.6	2.3	.23	6.8
23. SD	10	1.6	2.5	.20	6.8
24. IND	10	1.6	2.3	.23	6.8

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DISTANCE LEAGUES

For all players, ratings show the expected starts, touchdowns (pass-run-rec-ret) per game and fantasy points per game, using the scoring system of 4 points for TD passes and 6 points for all other touchdowns, with a 1-point bonus for each additional 10 yards. (That is, a 10-yard TD run is worth 7 points, a 20-yard TD run is worth 8 points, and so on.) For kickers, bonuses start after 30 yards (40-yard field goal equals 4 points). Players also receive 1 point for every 10 run/rec yards and 1 point for every 20 passing yards. Defenses get 6 points for touchdowns (with the same distance bonuses), 2 for takeaways and 1 for sacks.

QUARTERBACKS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	PPG
1. DEN 4 P.Manning	15	307	2.34	28.5
2. GB 9 Rodgers	15	302	2.25	28.5
3. NO 6 Brees	15	307	2.33	27.5
4. DET 9 Stafford	15	297	1.93	26.4
5. PHI 7 Foles	15	269	1.99	26.0
6. IND 10 Luck	15	276	1.83	25.1
7. NE 10 Brady	15	284	2.04	24.8
8. SF 8 Kaepernick	15	254	1.72	24.3
9. CIN 4 Dalton	15	267	1.85	24.2
10. WAS 10 Griffin	14	285	1.67	25.7
11. SEA 4 Wilson	15	246	1.82	23.9
12. CAR 12 Newton	15	257	1.61	23.7
13. ATL 9 Ryan	15	284	1.81	23.6
14. SD 10 Rivers	15	261	1.79	23.3
15. CHI 9 Cutler	14	268	1.84	24.3
16. DAL 11 Romo	14	273	1.90	24.5
17. NYG 8 E.Manning	15	254	1.54	21.9
18. PIT 12 Roethlisberger	14	259	1.68	22.6
19. ARI 4 Palmer	15	261	1.54	21.8
20. KC 6 A.Smith	15	238	1.43	20.9
21. MIA 5 Tannehill	15	251	1.46	21.5
22. BAL 11 Flacco	15	251	1.48	21.0
23. STL 4 Bradford	15	226	1.49	19.8
24. TEN 9 Locker	13	245	1.46	21.5
25. BUF 9 Manuel	14	236	1.30	20.0
26. HOU 10 Fitzpatrick	13	242	1.40	20.7
27. TB 7 McCown	13	238	1.42	20.2
28. CLE 4 Manziel	9	237	1.37	21.4
29. MIN 10 Bridgewater	10	228	1.30	19.5
30. NYJ 11 G.Smith	9	228	1.28	19.8
31. JAC 11 Henne	9	239	1.30	19.7

TIGHT ENDS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	PPG
1. NO 6 Graham	15	75	.69	12.1
2. DEN 4 Thomas	15	56	.52	9.0
3. SF 8 V.Davis	15	48	.50	8.6
4. NE 10 Gronkowski	11	68	.63	11.7
5. CAR 12 Olsen	15	52	.36	7.6
6. DAL 11 Witten	15	52	.30	7.2
7. MIN 10 Rudolph	15	45	.38	7.1
8. CLE 4 Cameron	15	49	.31	7.0
9. MIA 5 Clay	15	44	.34	6.7
10. PIT 12 H.Miller	14	44	.37	6.8
11. PHI 7 Ertz	15	41	.35	6.4
12. CHI 9 Bennett	15	45	.29	6.4
13. BAL 11 Pitta	15	41	.33	6.3
14. STL 4 Cook	15	43	.30	6.3
15. SD 10 Green	15	42	.30	6.2
16. IND 10 Fleener	15	38	.28	5.9
17. DET 9 Ebron	15	38	.30	5.8
18. HOU 10 Graham	15	35	.28	5.3
19. WAS 10 Reed	14	41	.24	5.7
20. PHI 7 Celek	15	33	.27	5.1
21. UFA 9 Finley	8	44	.33	6.6
22. TEN 9 Walker	15	32	.28	5.0
23. SD 10 Gates	14	36	.25	5.3
24. CIN 4 Eifert	15	34	.23	5.0

RUNNING BACKS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	PPG
1. PHI 7 McCoy	14	111	.74	16.2
2. MIN 10 Peterson	14	109	.84	16.7
3. KC 6 Charles	14	108	.78	16.3
4. CHI 9 Forte	14	107	.82	16.1
5. SEA 4 Lynch	14	101	.84	15.5
6. GB 9 Lacy	15	95	.74	14.3
7. DEN 4 M.Ball	14	94	.69	13.8
8. HOU 10 Foster	14	96	.65	13.8
9. DAL 11 Murray	13	97	.63	14.1
10. CIN 4 Bernard	15	81	.53	12.0
11. PIT 12 L.Bell	14	87	.53	12.1
12. STL 4 Stacy	14	87	.54	12.2
13. WAS 10 Morris	14	81	.53	11.6
14. ARI 4 Ellington	14	84	.41	11.3
15. SD 10 Mathews	13	85	.49	11.9
16. TB 7 Martin	14	80	.49	11.2
17. JAC 11 Gerhart	14	79	.48	11.0
18. NE 10 Vereen	15	71	.48	10.7
19. NYJ 11 C.Johnson	15	80	.38	10.6
20. DET 9 Bush	13	87	.40	11.5
21. BAL 11 Rice	12	88	.53	12.2
22. BUF 9 Spiller	14	76	.29	9.7
23. MIA 5 L.Miller	9	83	.50	11.9
24. DET 9 J.Bell	3	93	.64	13.7
25. CLE 4 Tate	13	75	.43	10.4
26. OAK 5 Jones-Drew	14	66	.45	9.6
27. SF 8 Gore	13	65	.53	9.9
28. NYG 8 Jennings	14	65	.45	9.3
29. NE 10 Ridley	15	55	.48	8.6
30. TEN 9 Sankey	15	62	.31	8.4
31. SD 10 Woodhead (3rd)	15	48	.45	8.1
32. ATL 9 S.Jackson	13	62	.53	9.4
33. IND 10 Richardson	15	56	.35	7.8
34. NE 10 Bolden	15	50	.44	7.8
35. BAL 11 Pierce	4	89	.58	13.1
36. NO 6 Thomas	15	55	.35	7.8
37. MIA 5 Moreno	6	82	.49	11.3
38. NO 6 Robinson	15	54	.30	7.5
39. CIN 4 Hill	12	58	.43	8.6
40. BUF 9 Jackson	12	57	.43	8.5
41. CAR 12 Williams	15	54	.23	7.0
42. PIT 12 Blount	2	78	.61	11.7
43. OAK 5 McFadden	14	49	.26	6.7
44. TEN 9 Greene	15	42	.32	6.2
45. TEN 9 McCluster (3rd)	14	44	.25	6.4
46. BUF 9 Brown	6	57	.29	8.1
47. SF 8 Hyde	2	88	.67	13.5
48. STL 4 Mason	2	86	.52	11.9
49. NYJ 11 Ivory	15	35	.35	5.7
50. PHI 7 Polk	2	98	.66	14.1
51. NYG 8 A.Williams	2	64	.50	9.7
52. KC 6 D.Thomas (3rd)	15	31	.26	5.6
53. NO 6 Ingram	14	43	.26	5.9
54. SD 10 D.Brown	3	82	.49	11.4
55. GB 9 Starks	1	80	.62	11.9
56. DEN 4 Hillman	1	94	.70	14.0
57. ATL 9 Freeman	4	67	.47	9.8
58. KC 6 Davis	2	89	.60	13.2
59. ARI 4 Dwyer	8	40	.39	6.6
60. TB 7 Sims	1	73	.45	10.6
61. ARI 4 Taylor	6	48	.39	7.2
62. CAR 12 Stewart	13	44	.18	5.6
63. IND 10 Ballard	10	52	.33	7.2
64. ATL 9 Rodgers	4	51	.34	7.2
65. CAR 12 Tolbert (FB)	15	26	.33	4.7
66. NYG 8 Wilson	5	51	.27	7.0
67. PHI 7 Sproles (3rd)	13	36	.21	5.1
68. HOU 10 A.Brown	2	74	.50	10.7
69. CIN 4 Green-Ellis	4	39	.28	5.7
70. DEN 4 Anderson	1	82	.62	12.2
71. IND 10 Bradshaw	6	49	.29	7.0

WIDE RECEIVERS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	PPG
1. DET 9 C.Johnson	15	97	.65	15.2
2. DEN 4 D.Thomas	15	88	.63	14.1
3. DAL 11 Bryant	15	81	.62	13.3
4. GB 9 Nelson	15	81	.61	13.2
5. CIN 4 Green	15	84	.55	13.0
6. GB 9 Cobb	15	78	.60	12.9
7. ATL 9 J.Jones	15	83	.50	12.5
8. PIT 12 A.Brown	15	83	.46	12.4
9. CHI 9 Jeffery	15	80	.50	12.2
10. CHI 9 Marshall	15	75	.59	12.0
11. NE 10 Edelman	15	78	.54	11.4
12. TB 7 V.Jackson	15	75	.45	11.2
13. ATL 9 White	15	76	.46	11.1
14. HOU 10 A.Johnson	15	79	.38	10.8
15. ARI 4 Fitzgerald	15	68	.49	10.5
16. SD 10 Allen	15	65	.48	10.2
17. NYG 8 Cruz	15	69	.39	10.1
18. WAS 10 D.Jackson	15	65	.37	9.9
19. ARI 4 Floyd	15	67	.38	9.5
20. PHI 7 Cooper	15	58	.41	9.2
21. DAL 11 T.Williams	15	56	.43	9.2
22. MIN 10 Patterson	15	56	.37	9.1
23. MIA 5 Wallace	15	63	.32	9.0
24. DEN 4 Welker	14	60	.55	9.6
25. IND 10 Hilton	15	56	.37	8.9
26. SEA 4 Harvin	14	57	.42	9.5
27. NO 6 Cooks	15	51	.41	8.7
28. BAL 11 T.Smith	15	64	.27	8.7
29. SF 8 Crabtree	15	59	.35	8.5
30. WAS 10 Garcon	15	59	.35	8.5
31. STL 4 Austin	15	50	.37	8.5
32. HOU 10 Hopkins	15	55	.33	8.3
33. DET 9 Tate	15	52	.37	8.3
34. MIA 5 Hartline	15	59	.30	8.2
35. TB 7 Evans	15	54	.34	7.9
36. NO 6 Stills	15	46	.35	7.7
37. KC 6 Bowe	15	53	.29	7.5
38. BUF 9 Watkins	15	52	.27	7.5
39. TEN 9 Wright	15	54	.27	7.4
40. NYJ 11 Decker	15	54	.26	7.4
41. NE 10 Dobson	11	48	.36	7.4
42. PIT 12 Wheaton	14	53	.32	7.7
43. NO 6 Colston	13	55	.39	8.2
44. SEA 4 Baldwin	15	48	.31	7.1
45. SF 8 Boldin	14	54	.34	7.6
46. TEN 9 Hunter	15	45	.30	7.0
47. MIN 10 Jennings	15	50	.27	7.0
48. OAK 5 D.Moore	15	51	.25	7.1
49. PHI 7 Maclin	15	47	.30	6.9
50. IND 10 Wayne	13	49	.31	7.4
51. DEN 4 Sanders	15	44	.31	6.7
52. CLE 4 Gordon	7	73	.40	10.5
53. NYG 8 Randle	14	46	.31	7.2
54. SEA 4 Kearse	15	39	.33	6.7
55. JAC 11 Shorts	14	53	.25	7.1
56. CLE 4 Hawkins	14	49	.26	6.9
57. NYJ 11 Kerley	15	48	.23	6.6
58. CIN 4 M.Jones	15	44	.32	6.5
59. CAR 12 Catchery	15	46	.28	6.4
60. OAK 5 J.Jones	15	46	.22	6.3
61. NYG 8 Beckham (3WR)	15	39	.26	6.2
62. BUF 9 Woods	15	44	.22	6.0
63. BAL 11 S.Smith	15	45	.23	6.3
64. CAR 12 Benjamin	15	41	.24	5.9
65. CLE 4 Austin	10	45	.24	6.3
66. WAS 10 Roberts (3WR)	15	38	.21	5.5
67. SD 10 Royal	14	40	.26	5.8
68. BUF 9 M.Williams	14	40	.23	5.8
69. JAC 11 M.Lee	9	42	.22	5.8
70. ATL 9 Douglas (3WR)	15	40	.18	5.3
71. CAR 12 Avant	15	38	.23	5.3

OVERALL TOP 35

1 McCoy; 2 Peterson; 3 Charles;
4 Forte; 5 Lynch; 6 C.Johnson;
7 Lacy; 8 D.Thomas; 9 Ball; 10 Foster;
11 Bryant; 12 Nelson; 13 Murray;
14 Graham; 15 Green; 16 Cobb;
17 Bernard; 18 Manning; 19 J.Jones;
20 A.Brown; 21 L.Bell; 22 Jeffery;
23 Stacy; 24 Marshall; 25 Morris;
26 Rodgers; 27 Ellington;
28 Mathews; 29 D.Martin;
30 Gerhart; 31 Vereen;
32 Edelman; 33 C.Johnson;
34 Brees; 35 V.Jackson.

KICKERS

Bye	Starts	PPG
1. NE 10 Gostkowski	16	9.7
2. DEN 4 Prater	16	9.6
3. SF 8 Dawson	16	9.4
4. BAL 11 Tucker	16	9.3
5. SEA 4 Hauschka	16	9.1
6. GB 9 Crosby	16	9.0
7. IND 10 Vinatieri	16	8.5
8. CHI 9 Gould	16	8.5
9. MIN 10 Walsh	16	8.5
10. SD 10 Novak	16	8.4
11. DAL 11 Bailey	16	8.4
12. STL 4 Zuerlein	16	8.4
13. CIN 4 Nugent	16	8.3
14. PIT 12 Suisham	16	8.2
15. KC 6 Succop	16	7.9
16. PHI 7 Henery	16	7.8
17. MIA 5 Sturgis	16	7.8
18. NYJ 11 Folk	16	7.8
19. CAR 12 Gano	16	7.7
20. JAC 11 Scobee	16	7.6
21. ARI 4 Feely	15	8.0
22. NO 6 Graham	14	8.6
23. TB 7 Barth	16	7.5
24. BUF 9 Carpenter	15	7.9
25. ATL 9 Bryant	14	8.3
26. OAK 5 Janikowski	16	7.5

DEFENSES & SPECIAL TEAMS

	Bye	Take	Sack	TD	PPG
1. STL	4	1.6	3.3	.30	10.0
2. SEA	4	2.0	2.6	.28	9.9
3. NO	6	1.6	2.9	.29	9.5
4. NE	10	1.8	2.5	.29	9.4
5. CAR	12	1.7	2.9	.28	9.4
6. KC	6	1.8	2.3	.29	9.3
7. DEN	4	1.7	3.1	.24	9.3
8. BUF	9	1.6	2.8	.25	9.1
9. CIN	4	1.7	2.6	.26	9.0
10. SF	8	1.8	2.3	.27	9.0
11. CHI	9	1.7	2.4	.26	8.8
12. BAL	11	1.6	2.4	.26	8.7
13. MIA	5	1.7	2.6	.24	8.7
14. NYG	8	1.6	2.5	.23	8.5
15. GB	9	1.6	2.6	.22	8.4
16. DET	9	1.6	2.3	.25	8.4
17. ARI	4	1.6	2.3	.24	8.4
18. CLE	4	1.7	2.4	.23	8.3
19. NYJ	11	1.6	2.3	.24	8.2
20. TB	7	1.6	2.4	.23	8.2
21. HOU	10	1.6	2.5	.22	8.1
22. TEN	9	1.6	2.3	.23	8.1
23. IND	10	1.6	2.3	.23	8.0
24. DAL	11	1.5	2.1	.25	8.0

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POINT PER RECEPTION LEAGUES

Ratings include the per-game projected total yards, total touchdowns and fantasy points per game. Defenses get 6 points for touchdowns, 2 for takeaways, 1 for sacks plus 0-12 points for holding opponents under 24 points (shoutout = 12 pts, 13 pts = 5.5 pts, etc.). Individuals receive credit for:

Passing TD 4 pts
Run/catch/return TD 6 pts
10 yards run/rec 1 pt
20 yards passing 1 pt
Reception 1 pt

QUARTERBACKS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. DEN 4 Manning	15	307	2.34	24.8
2. NO 6 Brees	15	307	2.33	24.9
3. GB 9 Rodgers	15	302	2.25	25.0
4. DET 9 Stafford	15	297	1.93	23.0
5. NE 10 Brady	15	284	2.04	22.6
6. PHI 7 Foles	15	269	1.99	22.6
7. IND 10 Luck	15	276	1.83	22.5
8. ATL 9 Ryan	15	284	1.81	21.6
9. CAR 12 Newton	15	257	1.61	21.5
10. SF 8 Kaepernick	15	254	1.72	21.5
11. WAS 10 Griffin	14	285	1.67	22.9
12. CIN 4 Dalton	15	267	1.85	21.4
13. SEA 4 Wilson	15	246	1.82	21.2
14. CHI 9 Cutler	14	268	1.84	21.4
15. SD 10 Rivers	15	261	1.79	20.5
16. DAL 11 Romo	14	273	1.90	21.5
17. NYG 8 Manning	15	254	1.54	19.0
18. ARI 4 Palmer	15	261	1.54	19.3
19. PIT 12 Roethlisberger	14	259	1.68	19.9
20. MIA 5 Tannehill	15	251	1.46	19.3
21. KC 6 A.Smith	15	238	1.43	18.7
22. BAL 11 Flacco	15	251	1.48	18.7
23. STL 4 Bradford	15	226	1.49	17.5
24. TEN 9 Locker	13	245	1.46	19.4
25. BUF 9 Manuel	14	236	1.30	18.1
26. HOU 10 Fitzpatrick	13	242	1.40	18.6
27. TB 7 McCown	13	238	1.42	18.0
28. CLE 4 Manziel	9	237	1.37	19.2
29. NYJ 11 G.Smith	9	228	1.28	18.0
30. MIN 10 Bridgewater	10	228	1.30	17.2
31. NYJ 11 Vick	7	236	1.23	18.6
32. JAC 11 Henne	9	239	1.30	17.5
33. OAK 5 Schaub	9	230	1.13	16.1

TIGHT ENDS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. NO 6 Graham	15	75	.69	17.4
2. DEN 4 J.Thomas	15	56	.52	13.5
3. CAR 12 Olsen	15	52	.36	11.8
4. NE 10 Gronkowski	11	68	.63	15.5
5. DAL 11 Witten	15	52	.30	11.6
6. CLE 4 Cameron	15	49	.31	11.1
7. SF 8 Davis	15	48	.50	11.0
8. MIN 10 Rudolph	15	45	.38	10.9
9. MIA 5 Clay	15	44	.34	10.4
10. PIT 12 Miller	14	44	.37	10.8
11. CHI 9 Bennett	15	45	.29	10.1
12. BAL 11 Pitta	15	41	.33	9.9
13. PHI 7 Ertz	15	41	.35	9.3
14. STL 4 Cook	15	43	.30	9.3
15. DET 9 Ebron	15	38	.30	9.0
16. IND 10 Fleener	15	38	.28	8.7
17. SD 10 Green	15	42	.30	8.6
18. WAS 10 Reed	14	41	.24	9.1
19. HOU 10 Graham	15	35	.28	8.3
20. SD 10 Gates	14	36	.25	8.5
21. UFA 9 Finley	8	44	.33	10.0
22. NYJ 11 Amaro	15	34	.19	7.6
23. CIN 4 Eifert	15	34	.23	7.8

RUNNING BACKS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. KC 6 Charles	14	108	.78	19.7
2. CHI 9 Forte	14	107	.82	19.7
3. PHI 7 McCoy	14	111	.74	17.7
4. MIN 10 Peterson	14	109	.84	18.0
5. SEA 4 Lynch	14	101	.84	17.1
6. GB 9 Lacy	15	95	.74	16.3
7. DEN 4 Ball	14	94	.69	16.1
8. CIN 4 Bernard	15	81	.53	15.5
9. NE 10 Vereen	15	71	.48	15.1
10. DAL 11 Murray	13	97	.63	17.0
11. HOU 10 Foster	14	96	.65	16.0
12. ARI 4 Ellington	14	84	.41	14.6
13. PIT 12 Bell	14	87	.53	14.6
14. DET 9 Bush	13	87	.40	14.8
15. STL 4 Stacy	14	87	.54	13.9
16. JAC 11 Gerhart	14	79	.48	13.0
17. TB 7 Martin	14	80	.49	13.0
18. WAS 10 Morris	14	81	.53	12.7
19. BAL 11 Rice	12	88	.53	15.0
20. NYJ 11 Johnson	15	80	.38	12.1
21. SD 10 Mathews	13	85	.49	13.2
22. DET 9 Bell	3	93	.64	16.4
23. BUF 9 Spiller	14	76	.29	11.6
24. NYG 8 Jennings	14	65	.45	12.1
25. MIA 5 Miller	9	83	.50	13.7
26. NO 6 Thomas	15	55	.35	10.9
27. OAK 5 Jones-Drew	14	66	.45	11.6
28. SD 10 Woodhead (3rd)	15	48	.45	10.6
29. TEN 9 Sankey	15	62	.31	10.2
30. CLE 4 Tate	13	75	.43	11.5
31. IND 10 Richardson	15	56	.35	9.7
32. NO 6 Robinson	15	54	.30	9.7
33. SF 8 Gore	13	65	.53	10.9
34. MIA 5 Moreno	6	82	.49	14.1
35. ATL 9 Jackson	13	62	.53	11.0
36. NE 10 Ridley	15	55	.48	9.1
37. BAL 11 Pierce	4	89	.58	14.6
38. BUF 9 Jackson	12	57	.43	10.3
39. NE 10 Bolden	15	50	.44	8.5
40. TEN 9 McCluster (3rd)	14	44	.25	9.0
41. CIN 4 Hill	12	58	.43	9.6
42. CAR 12 Williams	15	54	.23	8.1
43. OAK 5 McFadden	14	49	.26	8.3
44. KC 6 Thomas (3rd)	15	31	.26	7.5
45. TEN 9 Greene	15	42	.32	7.4
46. ATL 9 Rodgers	4	51	.34	9.8
47. PIT 12 Blount	2	78	.61	13.0
48. BUF 9 Brown	6	57	.29	8.4
49. TB 7 Sims	1	73	.45	12.7
50. STL 4 Mason	2	86	.52	12.9
51. SF 8 Hyde	2	88	.67	14.3
52. NO 6 Ingram	14	43	.26	6.8
53. PHI 7 Polk	2	98	.66	15.4
54. CAR 12 Tolbert (FB)	15	26	.33	6.2
55. DEN 4 Hillman	1	94	.70	16.5
56. KC 6 Davis	2	89	.60	15.2
57. ATL 9 Freeman	4	67	.47	11.7
58. SD 10 D.Brown	3	82	.49	13.2
59. CAR 12 Stewart	13	44	.18	6.8
60. IND 10 Ballard	10	52	.33	8.9
61. ARI 4 Dwyer	8	40	.39	7.7
62. GB 9 Starks	1	80	.62	13.4
63. ARI 4 Taylor	6	48	.39	9.2
64. NYG 8 A.Williams	2	64	.50	9.7
65. NYJ 11 Ivory	15	35	.35	5.7
66. PHI 7 Sproles (3rd)	13	36	.21	6.6
67. NYG 8 Wilson	5	51	.27	8.1
68. OAK 5 Reece (FB)	14	28	.13	5.5
69. NYJ 11 Powell	3	26	.09	4.8
70. HOU 10 A.Brown	2	74	.50	12.4
71. DEN 4 Anderson	1	82	.62	14.0

WIDE RECEIVERS

Bye	Starts	Yards	TD	FPG
1. DET 9 Johnson	15	97	.65	19.6
2. DEN 4 D.Thomas	15	88	.63	18.4
3. NE 10 Edelman	15	78	.54	18.4
4. GB 9 Cobb	15	78	.60	17.6
5. CIN 4 Green	15	84	.55	17.5
6. PIT 12 Brown	15	83	.46	17.2
7. DAL 11 Bryant	15	81	.62	17.2
8. ATL 9 Jones	15	83	.50	17.1
9. GB 9 Nelson	15	81	.61	17.0
10. CHI 9 Marshall	15	75	.59	16.9
11. ATL 9 White	15	76	.46	16.6
12. HOU 10 A.Johnson	15	79	.38	16.2
13. CHI 9 Jeffery	15	80	.50	15.9
14. ARI 4 Fitzgerald	15	68	.49	15.2
15. TB 7 Jackson	15	75	.45	15.0
16. NYG 8 Cruz	15	69	.39	14.3
17. DEN 4 Welker	14	60	.55	14.9
18. SD 10 Allen	15	65	.48	13.9
19. ARI 4 Floyd	15	67	.38	13.4
20. WAS 10 Jackson	15	65	.37	12.7
21. MIA 5 Wallace	15	63	.32	12.7
22. WAS 10 Garcon	15	59	.35	12.5
23. MIA 5 Hartline	15	59	.30	12.1
24. SF 8 Crabtree	15	59	.35	12.0
25. BAL 11 T.Smith	15	64	.27	12.0
26. TB 7 Evans	15	54	.34	11.9
27. PHI 7 Cooper	15	58	.41	11.7
28. TEN 9 Wright	15	54	.27	11.7
29. DAL 11 T.Williams	15	56	.43	11.6
30. SEA 4 Harvin	14	57	.42	12.4
31. KC 6 Bowe	15	53	.29	11.4
32. IND 10 Hilton	15	56	.37	11.4
33. NO 6 Cooks	15	51	.41	11.4
34. DET 9 Tate	15	52	.37	11.3
35. STL 4 Austin	15	50	.37	11.3
36. HOU 10 Hopkins	15	55	.33	11.2
37. NYJ 11 Decker	15	54	.26	10.9
38. MIN 10 Patterson	15	56	.37	10.9
39. NO 6 Colston	13	55	.39	12.3
40. SF 8 Boldin	14	54	.34	11.5
41. BUF 9 Watkins	15	52	.27	10.5
42. PIT 12 Wheaton	14	53	.32	11.2
43. CLE 4 Hawkins	14	49	.26	10.9
44. JAC 11 Shorts	14	53	.25	11.0
45. NYJ 11 Kerley	15	48	.23	9.9
46. SEA 4 Baldwin	15	48	.31	9.9
47. NE 10 Dobson	11	48	.36	10.4
48. OAK 5 D.Moore	15	51	.25	10.0
49. IND 10 Wayne	13	49	.31	10.6
50. CAR 12 Cotchery	15	46	.28	9.8
51. DEN 4 Sanders	15	44	.31	9.6
52. MIN 10 Jennings	15	50	.27	9.6
53. NO 6 Stills	15	46	.35	9.5
54. PHI 7 Maclin	15	47	.30	9.4
55. CIN 4 M.Jones	15	44	.32	9.4
56. TEN 9 Hunter	15	45	.30	9.1
57. OAK 5 J.Jones	15	46	.22	9.1
58. BAL 11 S.Smith	15	45	.23	9.2
59. CLE 4 Gordon	7	73	.40	14.4
60. BUF 9 Woods	15	44	.22	8.8
61. NYG 8 Randle	14	46	.31	9.6
62. CAR 12 Benjamin	15	41	.24	8.6
63. CLE 4 Austin	10	45	.24	9.7
64. CAR 12 Avant	15	38	.23	8.4
65. WAS 10 Roberts (3WR)	15	38	.21	8.4
66. SEA 4 Kearse	15	39	.33	8.3
67. ATL 9 Douglas (3WR)	15	40	.18	8.2
68. SD 10 Royal	14	40	.26	8.6
69. NYG 8 Beckham (3WR)	15	39	.26	8.0
70. BUF 9 M.Williams	14	40	.23	8.5
71. JAC 11 M.Lee	9	42	.22	8.6

OVERALL TOP 35

1 Charles; 2 Forte; 3 C.Johnson;
4 Graham; 5 D.Thomas; 6 McCoy;
7 Edelman; 8 Peterson; 9 Lynch;
10 Cobb; 11 Lacy; 12 Green;
13 A.Brown; 14 Bryant; 15 J.Jones;
16 Nelson; 17 Ball; 18 Marshall;
19 Bernard; 20 White; 21 Vereen;
22 Murray; 23 Foster; 24 A.Johnson;
25 Jeffery; 26 P.Manning; 27 Brees;
28 Ellington; 29 Bell; 30 Fitzgerald;
31 Rodgers; 32 V.Jackson; 33 Bush;
34 J.Thomas; 35 Stacy.

KICKERS

Bye	Starts	PPG
1. NE 10 S. Gostkowski	16	8.9
2. SF 8 Phil Dawson	16	8.6
3. BAL 11 Justin Tucker	16	8.5
4. DEN 4 Matt Prater	16	8.4
5. SEA 4 S. Hauschka	16	8.3
6. GB 9 Mason Crosby	16	8.2
7. IND 10 Adam Vinatieri	16	7.9
8. SD 10 Nick Novak	16	7.8
9. CHI 9 Robbie Gould	16	7.8
10. CIN 4 Mike Nugent	16	7.7
11. DAL 11 Dan Bailey	16	7.7
12. PIT 12 S. Suisham	16	7.6
13. MIN 10 Blair Walsh	16	7.4
14. STL 4 Greg Zuerlein	16	7.3
15. PHI 7 Alex Haden	16	7.3
16. KC 6 Ryan Succop	16	7.2
17. MIA 5 Caleb Sturgis	16	7.1
18. NYJ 11 Nick Folk	16	7.1
19. NO 6 S. Graham	14	8.0
20. ARI 4 Jay Feely	15	7.3
21. TB 7 Connor Barth	16	6.9
22. ATL 9 Matt Bryant	14	7.8
23. BUF 9 Dan Carpenter	15	7.3
24. CAR 12 Graham Gano	16	6.7
25. JAC 11 Josh Scobee	16	6.6
26. NYG 8 Josh Brown	16	6.8

DEFENSES & SPECIAL TEAMS

	Bye	Take	Sack	TD	FPG
1. SEA	4	2.0	2.6	.28	11.2
2. CAR	12	1.7	2.9	.28	9.9
3. NO	6	1.6	2.9	.29	9.9
4. NE	10	1.8	2.5	.29	9.5
5. CIN	4	1.7	2.6	.26	9.3
6. SF	8	1.8	2.3	.27	9.2
7. STL	4	1.6	3.3	.30	9.1
8. DEN	4	1.7	3.1	.24	9.1
9. KC	6	1.8	2.3	.29	9.0
10. NYJ	11	1.6	2.3	.24	8.9
11. BAL	11	1.6	2.4	.26	8.9
12. TEN	9	1.6	2.3	.23	8.8
13. MIA	5	1.7	2.6	.24	8.8
14. CHI	9	1.7	2.4	.26	8.4
15. CLE	4	1.7	2.4	.23	8.4
16. IND	10	1.6	2.3	.23	8.3
17. BUF	9	1.6	2.8	.25	8.2
18. ARI	4	1.6	2.3	.24	8.0
19. TB	7	1.6	2.4	.23	7.9
20. HOU	10	1.6	2.5	.22	7.9
21. GB	9	1.6	2.6	.22	7.7
22. NYG	8	1.6	2.5	.23	7.6
23. DET	9	1.6	2.3	.25	7.4
24. JAC	11	1.4	2.3	.19	7.2

Team-By-Team Fantasy Depth Charts

Team-by-team rankings of the top fantasy prospects:

ARIZONA CARDINALS

QUARTERBACK

Carson Palmer
Drew Stanton
Logan Thomas
Ryan Lindley

RUNNING BACK

Andre Ellington
Jonathan Dwyer
Stepfan Taylor
Robert Hughes (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Larry Fitzgerald
Michael Floyd
Ted Ginn Jr.
John Brown
Brittan Golden
Jaron Brown

TIGHT END

Troy Niklas
John Carlson
Rob Housler
Jake Ballard

KICKER

Jay Feely

ATLANTA FALCONS

QUARTERBACK

Matt Ryan
Dominique Davis
Sean Renfree

RUNNING BACK

Steven Jackson
Devonta Freeman
Jacquizz Rodgers
Antone Smith
Patrick DiMarco (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Julio Jones
Roddy White
Harry Douglas
Drew Davis
Darius Johnson
Devin Hester (KR)

TIGHT END

Levine Toilolo
Mickey Shuler
Bear Pascoe

KICKER

Matt Bryant

BALTIMORE RAVENS

QUARTERBACK

Joe Flacco
Tyrod Taylor
Keith Wenning

RUNNING BACK

Ray Rice
Bernard Pierce
Lorenzo Taliaferro
Justin Forsett
Cierre Wood
Kyle Juszczyk (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Torrey Smith
Steve Smith
Marlon Brown
Jacoby Jones
Deonte Thompson
Aaron Mellette
Mike Campanaro

TIGHT END

Dennis Pitta
Owen Daniels
Crockett Gilmore

KICKER

Justin Tucker

BUFFALO BILLS

QUARTERBACK

EJ Manuel
Thaddeus Lewis
Jeff Tuel
Dennis Dixon

RUNNING BACK

C.J. Spiller
Fred Jackson
Bryce Brown
Anthony Dixon
Frank Summers (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Sammy Watkins
Robert Woods
Mike Williams
Marquise Goodwin
T.J. Graham
Chris Hogan
Marcus Easley

TIGHT END

Scott Chandler
Tony Moeaki
Chris Gragg
Lee Smith

KICKER

Dan Carpenter
Dustin Hopkins

CAROLINA PANTHERS

QUARTERBACK

Cam Newton
Derek Anderson
Joe Webb

RUNNING BACK

DeAngelo Williams
Jonathan Stewart
Mike Tolbert
Tyler Gaffney
Kenjon Barner
Richie Brockel (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Kelvin Benjamin
Jerricho Cotchery
Jason Avant
Tiquan Underwood
Tavarres King

TIGHT END

Greg Olsen
Ed Dickson

KICKER

Graham Gano

CHICAGO BEARS

QUARTERBACK

Jay Cutler
Jordan Palmer
David Fales

RUNNING BACK

Matt Forte
KaDeem Carey
Michael Ford
Shaun Draughn
Tony Fiammetta (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Brandon Marshall
Alshon Jeffery
Marquess Wilson
Josh Morgan
Eric Weems

TIGHT END

Martellus Bennett
Dante Rosario
Matthew Mulligan

KICKER

Robbie Gould

CINCINNATI BENGALS

QUARTERBACK

Andy Dalton
Jason Campbell
A.J. McCarron

RUNNING BACK

Giovani Bernard
Jeremy Hill
BenJarvus Green-Ellis
Cedric Peerman
Rex Burkhead

WIDE RECEIVER

A.J. Green
Marvin Jones
Mohamed Sanu
Ryan Whalen
Dane Sanzenbacher
Brandon Tate

TIGHT END

Jermaine Gresham
Tyler Eifert
Orson Charles

KICKER

Mike Nugent

CLEVELAND BROWNS

QUARTERBACK

Johnny Manziel
Brian Hoyer
Tyler Thigpen

RUNNING BACK

Ben Tate
Terrance West
Edwin Baker
Isaiah Crowell
Dion Lewis
Chris Ogbonnaya
Fozzy Whittaker

WIDE RECEIVER

Andrew Hawkins
Josh Gordon
Miles Austin
Nate Burleson
Earl Bennett
Travis Benjamin

TIGHT END

Jordan Cameron
Jim Dray
Gary Barnidge
MarQueis Gray

KICKER

Billy Cundiff

DALLAS COWBOYS

QUARTERBACK

Tony Romo
Kyle Orton
Brandon Weeden
Caleb Hanie

RUNNING BACK

DeMarco Murray
Lance Dunbar
Joseph Randle
Ryan Williams
Tyler Clutts (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Dez Bryant
Terrance Williams
Cole Beasley
Dwayne Harris
Devin Street
LaRon Byrd

TIGHT END

Jason Witten
Gavin Escobar
James Hanna

KICKER

Dan Bailey

DENVER BRONCOS

QUARTERBACK

Peyton Manning
Brock Osweiler
Zac Dysert

RUNNING BACK

Montee Ball
C.J. Anderson
Ronnie Hillman
Kapri Bibbs

WIDE RECEIVER

Demaryius Thomas
Wes Welker
Emmanuel Sanders
Cody Latimer
Andre Caldwell

TIGHT END

Julius Thomas
Jacob Tamme
DaRick Rogers
Griff Whalen
Virgil Green
Joel Dreessen

KICKER

Matt Prater

DETROIT LIONS

QUARTERBACK

Matthew Stafford
Dan Orlovsky
Kellen Moore

RUNNING BACK

Reggie Bush
Jaque Bell
Mikel Leshoure
Theo Riddick
Jed Collins (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Calvin Johnson
Golden Tate
Ryan Broyles
Kris Durham
T.J. Jones
Kevin Ogletree

TIGHT END

Eric Ebron
Brandon Pettigrew
Joseph Fauria

KICKER

Nate Freese

GREEN BAY PACKERS

QUARTERBACK

Aaron Rodgers
Matt Flynn
Scott Tolzien

RUNNING BACK

Eddie Lacy
James Starks
Johnathan Franklin
John Kuhn (FB)
DuJuan Harris

WIDE RECEIVER

Jordy Nelson
Randall Cobb
Jarrett Boykin
Davante Adams
Myles White

TIGHT END

Jermichael Finley
(if re-signed)
Andrew Quarless
Brandon Bostick
Richard Rodgers
Colt Lyerla

KICKER

Mason Crosby

HOUSTON TEXANS

QUARTERBACK

Ryan Fitzpatrick
Tom Savage
Case Keenum
T.J. Yates

RUNNING BACK

Arian Foster
Andre Brown
Dennis Johnson
Alfred Blue
Jonathan Grimes
Jay Prosch (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Andre Johnson
DeAndre Hopkins
Keshawn Martin
DeVier Posey
Mike Thomas

TIGHT END

Garrett Graham
C.J. Fiedorowicz
Ryan Griffin

KICKER

Randy Bullock

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

QUARTERBACK

Andrew Luck
Matt Hasselbeck
Chandler Harnish

RUNNING BACK

Trent Richardson
Vick Ballard
Ahmad Bradshaw
Dan Herron
Stanley Havili (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

T.Y. Hilton
Reggie Wayne
Hakeem Nicks
Donte Moncrief
LaVon Brazill

TIGHT END

Coby Fleener
Dwayne Allen
Jack Doyle

KICKER

Adam Vinatieri

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

QUARTERBACK

Chad Henne
Blake Bortles
Ricky Stanzi

RUNNING BACK

Toby Gerhart
Jordan Todman
Denard Robinson
Storm Johnson
Will Taufouo (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Cecil Shorts III
Marqise Lee
Allen Robinson
Justin Blackmon
(suspended)
Ace Sanders
Tandon Doss
Mike Brown

TIGHT END

Mercedes Lewis
Clay Harbor
Brandon Barden

KICKER

Josh Scobee

KANSAS CITY

QUARTERBACK

Alex Smith
Chase Daniel
Aaron Murray

RUNNING BACK

Jamaal Charles
Knile Davis
DeAnthony Thomas
Cyrus Gray
Anthony Sherman (FB)
Joe McKnight

WIDE RECEIVER

Dwayne Bowe
Donnie Avery
Junior Hemingway
A.J. Jenkins
Kyle Williams

TIGHT END

Travis Kelce
Anthony Fasano
Sean McGrath

KICKER

Ryan Succop

MIAMI DOLPHINS

QUARTERBACK

Ryan Tannehill
Matt Moore
Pat Devlin

RUNNING BACK

Lamar Miller
Knowshon Moreno
Daniel Thomas
Mike Gillislee
Marcus Thigpen
Tyler Clutts (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER

Mike Wallace
Brian Hartline
Jarvis Landry
Brandon Gibson
Rishard Matthews
Damian Williams

TIGHT END

Charles Clay
Dion Sims
Michael Egnew
Arthur Lynch

KICKER
Caleb Sturgis

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

QUARTERBACK
Teddy Bridgewater
Matt Cassel
Christian Ponder

RUNNING BACK
Adrian Peterson
Jerick McKinnon
Matt Asiata
Jerome Felton (FB)
Joe Banyard

WIDE RECEIVER
Cordarrelle Patterson
Greg Jennings
Jerome Simpson
Jarius Wright
Erik Lora

TIGHT END
Kyle Rudolph
Chase Ford
Rhett Ellison
Allen Reisner

KICKER
Blair Walsh

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

QUARTERBACK
Tom Brady
Ryan Mallett
Jimmy Garoppolo

RUNNING BACK
Shane Vereen
Stevan Ridley
Brandon Bolden
James White
James Develin (FB)
Stephen Houston

WIDE RECEIVER
Julian Edelman
Aaron Dobson
Brandon LaFell
Kenbrell Thompson
Danny Amendola
Josh Boyce
Matt Slater

TIGHT END
Rob Gronkowski
D.J. Williams
M. Hoomanawanui

KICKER
Stephen Gostkowski

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

QUARTERBACK
Drew Brees
Luke McCown
Ryan Griffin

RUNNING BACK
Pierre Thomas
Khiry Robinson
Mark Ingram
Travis Cadet
Erik Lorig (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Marques Colston
Brandin Cooks
Kenny Stills
Robert Meachem
Nick Toon
Joseph Morgan

TIGHT END
Jimmy Graham
Benjamin Watson
Josh Hill

KICKER
Shayne Graham
Derek Dimke

NEW YORK GIANTS

QUARTERBACK
Eli Manning
Ryan Nassib
Curtis Painter

RUNNING BACK
Rashad Jennings
Andre Williams
David Wilson
Peyton Hillis
Michael Cox
Henry Hynoski (FB)
John Conner (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Victor Cruz
Rueben Randle
Odell Beckham Jr.
Jerrel Jernigan
Mario Manningham
Trindon Holliday (KR)

TIGHT END
Adrien Robinson
Kellen Davis

KICKER
Josh Brown

NEW YORK JETS

QUARTERBACK
Geno Smith
Michael Vick
Matt Simms
Tajh Boyd

RUNNING BACK
Chris Johnson
Chris Ivory
Bilal Powell
Daryl Richardson
Tommy Bohanon (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Eric Decker
Jeremy Kerley
David Nelson
Stephen Hill
Greg Salas
Shaq Evans
Jalen Saunders

TIGHT END
Jace Amaro
Jeff Cumberland
Zach Sudfeld

KICKER
Nick Folk

OAKLAND RAIDERS

QUARTERBACK
Matt Schaub
Derek Carr
Matt McGloin

RUNNING BACK
Maurice Jones-Drew
Darren McFadden
Marcel Reece (FB)
Latavius Murray
Kory Sheets
Jeremy Stewart

WIDE RECEIVER
Denarius Moore
James Jones
Rod Streater
Andre Holmes
Juron Criner
Greg Little
Brice Butler

TIGHT END
Mychal Rivera
David Ausberry
Nick Kasa

KICKER
Sebastian Janikowski

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

QUARTERBACK
Nick Foles
Mark Sanchez
Matt Barkley

RUNNING BACK
LeSean McCoy
Chris Polk
Darren Sproles
David Fluellen

WIDE RECEIVER
Jeremy Maclin
Riley Cooper
Jordan Matthews
Josh Huff
Damaris Johnson
Brad Smith

TIGHT END
Zach Ertz
Brent Celek
James Casey

KICKER
Alex Henery

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

QUARTERBACK
Ben Roethlisberger
Bruce Gradkowski
Landry Jones

RUNNING BACK
LeVeon Bell
LeGarrette Blount
Dri Archer
Will Johnson (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Antonio Brown
Markus Wheaton
Lance Moore
Martavis Bryant
Darrius Heyward-Bey
Derek Moye

TIGHT END
Heath Miller
David Paulson
Matt Spaeth

KICKER
Shaun Suisham

ST. LOUIS RAMS

QUARTERBACK
Sam Bradford
Shaun Hill
Austin Davis

RUNNING BACK
Zac Stacy
Tre Mason
Benny Cunningham
Isaiah Pead

WIDE RECEIVER
Tavon Austin
Chris Givens
Stedman Bailey
Austin Pettis
Kenny Britt
Brian Quick

TIGHT END
Jared Cook
Lance Kendricks
Cory Harkey (FB-TE)
Justice Cunningham

KICKER
Greg Zuerlein

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

QUARTERBACK
Philip Rivers
Kellen Clemens
Brad Sorensen

RUNNING BACK
Ryan Mathews
Danny Woodhead
Donald Brown
Marion Grice
David Johnson (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Keenan Allen
Malcom Floyd
Eddie Royal
Vincent Brown
Seyi Ajirotutu

TIGHT END
Ladarius Green
Antonio Gates
John Phillips

KICKER
Nick Novak

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

QUARTERBACK
Colin Kaepernick
Blaine Gabbert
M. Bethel-Thompson

RUNNING BACK
Frank Gore
Carlos Hyde
Kendall Hunter
Marcus Lattimore
LaMichael James
Bruce Miller (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Michael Crabtree
Anquan Boldin
Stevie Johnson
Quinton Patton
Bruce Ellington
Jon Baldwin
Brandon Lloyd

TIGHT END
Vernon Davis
Vance McDonald
Garrett Celek

KICKER
Phil Dawson

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

QUARTERBACK
Russell Wilson
Tarvaris Jackson
Terrelle Pryor

RUNNING BACK
Marshawn Lynch
Christine Michael
Robert Turbin
Derrick Coleman (FB)
Spencer Ware (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Percy Harvin
Doug Baldwin
Jermaine Kearse
Paul Richardson
Sidney Rice
Ricardo Lockette
Chris Matthews

TIGHT END
Zach Miller
Luke Willson
Anthony McCoy

KICKER
Steven Hauschka

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

QUARTERBACK
Josh McCown
Mike Glennon
Mike Kafka

RUNNING BACK
Doug Martin
Mike James
Charles Sims
Bobby Rainey
Jeff Demps
Jorvorskie Lane (FB)

WIDE RECEIVER
Vincent Jackson
Mike Evans
Chris Owusu
Louis Murphy
Robert Herron
Lavelle Hawkins

TIGHT END
A. Seferian-Jenkins
Tim Wright
Brandon Myers
Luke Stocker

KICKER
Connor Barth

TENNESSEE TITANS

QUARTERBACK
Jake Locker
Charlie Whitehurst
Zach Mettenberger

RUNNING BACK
Bishop Sankey
Shonn Greene
Dexter McCullister
Jackie Battle
Collin Mooney (FB)
Leon Washington (KR)

WIDE RECEIVER
Kendall Wright
Justin Hunter
Nate Washington
Damian Williams
Michael Preston
Marc Mariani

TIGHT END
Delanie Walker
Craig Stevens
Taylor Thompson

KICKER
Maikon Bonani

WASHINGTON

QUARTERBACK
Robert Griffin III
Kirk Cousins
Colt McCoy

RUNNING BACK
Alfred Morris
Roy Helu
Lache Seastrunk
Darrel Young (FB)
Evan Royster
Chris Thompson

WIDE RECEIVER
DeSean Jackson
Pierre Garcon
Andre Roberts
Leonard Hankerson
Santana Moss
Aldrick Robinson

TIGHT END
Jordan Reed
Logan Paulsen
Niles Paul
Ted Bolser

KICKER
Kai Forbath
Zach Hocker

UNRESTRICTED FREE AGENTS

QUARTERBACK
Josh Freeman
Rex Grossman

RUNNING BACK
Michael Bush
Felix Jones
Willis McGahee

WIDE RECEIVER
Santonio Holmes
Danario Alexander
Davone Bess

TIGHT END
Jermichael Finley
Dustin Keller
Fred Davis

KICKER
Lawrence Tynes
Rian Lindell
David Akers

Pianowski charges to 3rd title

Scott Pianowski won last year's Experts Poll, and he can send a thank you card to the San Diego Chargers.

To win at this competition, featuring 20 industry analysts, somewhere along the line you have to zig where the other 19 guys zag. For Pianowski, that was the Chargers, who were coming off a down year and were pretty much ignored by everyone.

But Pianowski ranked Philip Rivers and Nick Novak higher than anybody, and those guys had great years. He was also one of the few to include Ryan Mathews in his top 20.

Using our complex scoring matrix, it was enough for Pianowski, a writer for *Yahoo! Sports*, to come in less than two-tenths of a percent ahead of Lroy Anthony Hale of *Fantasy First*. We actually score them three different ways, and Hale was the winner using one of the two unofficial scoring

systems — his picks were also good. Mike Clay of *Pro Football Focus* and Bob Henry of *Footballguys* weren't far back.

"You've got to be lucky to win this thing," says Pianowski, who becomes the first three-time winner in the 24-year history of the industry's original experts poll. He also won in 2006 and 2011. This being a 20-man competition, the average guy should win once every 20 years. Pianowski has managed three titles in 12 years, something the odds suggest he had less than a 2 percent chance of achieving.

This is different than other experts leagues in that there are no games, lineups or waiver moves. Each contestant picks 120 players — 20 at each position. The higher you rank a player, the more he counts towards your score. Using our complex scoring grid, all of the entries last year finished with between 374,000 and 388,000 points.

It's not a perfect competition. Injuries and lineup changes tend to play too big of a role. But the poll is a good vehicle to show what a variety of analysts think of the various players. We see which prospects show up in everybody's top 10, and which ones generate a variety of rankings. And we let the experts weigh in with their opinions, giving you a chance to sample some of the thinking behind their choices.

This year's field includes Pianowski, trying to win a third championship in four years. Henry has won a pair of titles. Two other former champions are in the field, Scott Sachs (2012) and David Dorey (2004). Two companies that have won titles are represented, but with different analysts carrying the flag — *Fantasy Football Champs*, with Bill Enright, and *Fantasy Football Warehouse*, with Alan Satterlee.

Meet the Fantasy Experts

CORY BONINI

Company: KFFL.com

Web: kffl.com

Boldest picks: Seven outlier picks at quarterback, where he's highest on Luck (2), Rivers (6), Tannehill (11) and lowest on Newton (17) and Dalton (unranked). Only expert who identifies Mathews (11) as an RB1. Highest on WRs Nelson (6) and Wright (18).

PAUL CHARCHIAN

Company: LeagueSafe

Web: leaguesafepost.com

Boldest picks: Highest on the Notre Dame tight ends, Rudolph (5), Eifert (13). Only guy who puts WR D. Thomas and TE Graham in top 5 overall. Lowest on QB Luck (10), WR J. Jones (10), RB Martin (17). WR K. Allen not on his list. Leads the way on WRs Harvin (12), Cooper (19).

2013 EXPERTS POLL RESULTS

Results of last season's poll, with rank in each category and overall points:

	QB	RB	WR	TE	PK	DEF	TOTAL
1. Scott Pianowski	1	4	7	19	1	19	387,739
2. L'roy Hale	6	3	16	2	2	2	387,121
3. Mike Clay	2	13	13	5	12	6	384,038
4. Bob Henry	11	1	8	11	6	15	383,405
5. Chris Liss	5	20	1	7	13	9	382,712
6. Micah James	7	17	11	17	5	1	382,506
7. David Dorey	8	19	3	1	11	8	382,439
8. Bill Enright	3	10	9	12	17	11	382,085
9. Alan Satterlee	13	16	10	4	8	7	381,886
10. Ladd Biro	14	2	2	20	3	17	380,492
11. Cory Bonini	15	6	5	6	18	3	380,143
12. Michael Nazarek	16	12	12	15	7	5	378,847
13. Scott Sachs	17	7	6	8	10	20	378,801
14. Sam Hendricks	12	5	18	13	16	13	378,700
15. John Moore	10	14	15	18	9	18	377,943
16. Pretzel May	4	11	14	10	20	12	377,858
17. Paul Charchian	9	8	20	9	14	16	377,471
18. Tony Holm	19	18	4	3	19	4	375,397
19. Lenny Pappano	18	9	17	16	15	14	374,573
20. Christopher Harris	20	15	19	14	4	10	374,510

MIKE CLAY

Company: Pro Football Focus

Web: profootballfocus.com/pff-fantasy/

Boldest picks: Higher than everyone else on three unlikely names: QB A. Smith (16), RB Jennings (16) and K Janikowski (13). Lowest of everyone on WR V. Jackson (19), who comes in three spots behind Torrey Smith. RB D. Murray is in his top 20 overall, but QB Manning is not.

TOM DESKOVITZ

Hometown: South Lyon, Mich.

Winner: 2013 Fantasy Index Open

Boldest picks: Lowest on the Super Bowl QBs, Manning (3), Wilson (19), while highest at that position on Romo (7), McCown (17). Low man on RB Murray (14), WR D. Thomas (5), WR Jeffery (15). Nobody is higher on RB Bernard (8).

DAVID DOREY

Company: The Huddle

Web: thehuddle.com

Boldest picks: Highest on RB Forte (2) and TE Olsen (3). Lowest on WR Bryant (9), who's in top 4 on all but two other lists. Highest, meanwhile, on WR A. Brown (3), who isn't in anybody

else's top 6. Puts RB Ball (5) ahead of Lynch, Lacy and others. Sankey, Gerhart among his top 20 RBs.

BILL ENRIGHT

Company: Fantasy Football Champs

Web: ffcchamps.com

Boldest picks: Highest on a pair of second-year backs, M. Ball (4), L. Bell (6), but lowest on another sophomore, Lacy (8). Sky high on a pair of young tight ends, Reed (3), Ebron (8), as well as K. Freese (5) and ST Arizona (1). QB Cutler not mentioned.

MICHAEL FABIANO

Company: NFL.com

Web: nfl.com/fantasyfootball

Boldest picks: Picks will be loved by the Dawg Pound. Highest on QB Manziel (16), RB Tate (18) and WR Gordon (7). Only expert who would take RB Lynch with a top-4 overall pick. Highest on TE Pitta (5). Lowest on QB Ryan (12). Doesn't include QBs E. Manning, Palmer or Flacco.

L'ROY ANTHONY HALE

Company: Fantasy First

Product info: see ad on page 61

Web: fantasy-first.com

Boldest picks: Slots Bryant as top WR. Only expert who doesn't put WRs Green, Marshall in his top 20 overall. Higher than everyone on QB Brady (4) and RBs Gerhart (14), Ridley (19). Cool on WR A. Johnson (20). Thinks Bucs (5) are the sleeper defense.

SAM HENDRICKS

Company: Extra Point Press

Product info: see ad on page 43

Web: xppress.com

Boldest picks: The most conservative board overall. Doesn't rank ST Buffalo; that's the only spot where he's either higher or lower than everyone else. High on WR Harvin (16). One of five who puts QB Brees ahead of Manning. Likes RB Murray (7).

BOB HENRY

Company: Footballguys

Product info: see ad on page 4

Web: footballguys.com

Boldest picks: Loves the Motor City RBs, Bush (13), Bell (14). Cool on QB Foles (11). Only expert who would take TE Gates (10) before Pitta (15). Highest on QBs Wilson (8), Dalton (13) and TE Cook (11). WR Cruz isn't on his list. Likes RB Jennings (18).

TONY HOLM

Company: Fantasy Sharks

Web: fantasyssharks.com

Boldest picks: Lower than everyone on RBs L. Bell (17), Morris (20) and Bernard (unranked). Only expert, meanwhile, to mention RB Moreno (14). Lowest of everyone on some big names: QB Rodgers (6), QB Romo (16), WR C. Johnson (4) and WR Cobb (unranked). Highest New York WRs: Cruz (9), Decker (17).

BRYAN HOUGH

Company: Fantasy Titan 101

Product info: see ad on page 21

Web: fantasytitan101.com

Boldest picks: One of only two experts to mention WR Maclin, and he's got him 15th. Highest of everyone on QB Bradford (14), TE Clay (9), ST Carolina (2). Thinks RBs T. Richardson (17) and Jennings (18) could have nice seasons. Likes WR Crabtree (16).

MICAH JAMES

Company: FFMagicMan

Web: ffmagicman.com

Boldest picks: He's the lowest on RB Charles (4), where he's got him following Lacy. Sees Falcons getting back on track; he's highest of everyone on QB Ryan (4) and WR J. Jones (3). Loves WRs V. Jackson (7), Crabtree (11). Doesn't like kickers Dawson (8), Hauschka (13). Sleeper at tight end is Kelce (17).

CHRIS LISS

Company: RotoWire.com

Product info: see ad on page 67

Web: rotowire.com

Boldest picks: Highest on RB Morris (6); only three others have him in top 10. Nobody is higher on QBs Foles (4). Ties for lowest on TEs Witten (9) and Rudolph (unranked). At wide receiver, highest on A. Johnson (9) and lowest on A. Brown (13). High man on two defenses: Buffalo (3), New Orleans (9).

MICHAEL LIVENGOOD

Hometown: Ward, Ark.

Qualifier: 2013 Fantasy Index Open

Boldest picks: Ranks QB Palmer (11) higher than Kaepernick (16). Highest on a pair of more obscure names: K Succop (9) and TE D. Walker (11). RB M. Ball and WR J. Jones should not be picked in the top 20, according to his overall board.

MICHAEL NAZAREK

Company: Fantasy Football Mastermind

Web: fmmastermind.com

Boldest picks: Lower than everyone on RB McCoy (4). Has RB L. Bell as his No. 8 player overall, highest of everyone. At TE, cool on V. Davis (7), while he likes J. Reed (8), H. Miller (11). Doesn't include RB Ellington.

LENNY PAPPANO

Company: Draft Sharks

Web: draftsharks.com

Boldest picks: A pair of biggies at QB, where he's the highest on Griffin (5) and the lowest on Brady (15). Cool on RB Lynch (8). Leads the way on a pair of young WRs, with Floyd (13) and Terrance Williams (20). At kicker, says he'd take Bryant (2) before Gostkowski (6).

SCOTT PIANOWSKI

Company: Yahoo! Sports

Web: football.fantasysports.yahoo.com

Boldest picks: The only expert who puts RB Martin (8) in his top 10 overall. Lowest by far, meanwhile, on RB Foster (15), who's 5 spots behind Spiller. Ranks TE V. Davis (2) ahead of J. Thomas. Sneaks Hilton (17), Harvin (20) into his top 20 at WR. Doesn't like ST San Francisco (8).

SCOTT SACHS

Company: Perfect Season Fantasy Football

Web: perfectseasonffb.com

Boldest picks: Highest or lowest on 43 picks, the most of anyone. Notable lows: QBs Stafford (9), Foles (18), RBs Forte (7), Ball (17). Biggest highs: QBs Cutler (7), Flacco (11), RBs Rice (8), Spiller (9), C. Johnson (11), WRs Welker (7), Hilton (13).

ALAN SATTERLEE

Company: Fantasy Football Warehouse

Product info: see ad on page 47

Web: fantasyfootballwarehouse.com

Boldest picks: Young players are sky-high all over his board, topped by RB Lacy at No. 1 overall. Picks include eight rookies: WR Benjamin (20), TE Ebron (13), Amaro (17), Seferian-Jenkins (19), RBs Sankey (14), Freeman (20), K. Freese (16) and QB Bridgewater (20). Ertz (4) and L. Green (6) are his breakout tight ends.

OVERALL TOP 25

Points	Bonini	Charchian	Clay	Deskovitz	Dorey	Enright	Fabiano	Hale	Hendricks	Henry	Holm	Hough	James	Liss	Livengood	Nazarek	Pappano	Planowski	Sachs	Satterlee
1. Jamaal Charles	476	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	6	2	1	1	3	2	8	2
2. Adrian Peterson	470	1	1	2	1	4	1	1	3	2	4	6	2	1	3	4	2	1	3	4
3. LeSean McCoy	467	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	4	2	1	7	3
4. Matt Forte	395	7	7	4	10	2	7	5	4	5	3	5	4	8	9	3	4	4	•	5
5. Calvin Johnson	391	4	6	8	5	5	4	9	20	4	6	3	8	3	5	9	5	8	5	7
6. Eddie Lacy	371	5	13	6	7	7	9	7	5	9	7	9	6	4	4	5	7	5	7	1
7. Marshawn Lynch	324	10	15	5	11	8	8	4	6	7	5	15	5	7	15	6	6	13	6	18
8. Demaryius Thomas	322	6	5	10	17	13	11	15	19	8	8	7	10	13	6	11	9	7	8	6
9. Jimmy Graham	301	13	4	7	6	11	14	8	17	6	17	18	9	12	10	10	11	6	17	10
10. Dez Bryant	272	15	11	11	12	•	19	14	18	11	15	8	12	5	7	14	10	9	11	9
11. A.J. Green	265	14	14	13	19	20	13	16	•	10	11	4	16	14	8	12	12	10	9	8
12. Peyton Manning	244	8	10	•	9	10	5	6	15	•	9	•	7	20	•	7	14	•	12	13
13. Brandon Marshall	207	18	12	14	15	16	12	19	•	14	16	11	20	17	11	15	13	17	20	17
14. Montee Ball	203	9	8	20	•	6	6	20	9	•	10	12	•	15	14	•	20	11	13	14
15. Drew Brees	169	•	16	•	8	14	10	11	14	17	•	•	11	•	•	8	•	•	19	12
16. Julio Jones	168	•	•	12	16	•	18	17	•	18	20	10	19	9	12	•	17	16	15	11
17. Arian Foster	163	•	•	16	13	12	•	10	8	13	19	•	14	11	16	16	19	18	•	16
18. DeMarco Murray	161	16	•	9	•	•	12	10	12	•	13	13	18	20	13	15	12	14	•	•
19. LeVeon Bell	156	11	•	•	20	9	•	13	11	15	12	16	18	10	•	19	8	20	•	•
20. Doug Martin	123	•	•	17	•	17	•	12	16	13	14	17	16	•	•	16	15	10	•	•
21. Aaron Rodgers	107	20	•	•	4	19	20	18	16	•	•	•	15	19	•	20	•	•	2	•
22. Giovani Bernard	71	•	•	15	14	18	17	•	•	14	•	•	•	•	•	•	14	•	•	19
23. Alfred Morris	69	12	•	•	•	•	•	7	20	•	•	•	•	13	17	•	•	18	•	•
24. Antonio Brown	42	•	•	19	•	15	•	•	19	•	17	•	•	•	•	18	•	•	•	•
25. Alshon Jeffery	41	•	18	•	•	•	•	•	•	18	19	•	•	19	•	•	•	•	•	15

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Bonini: 17 Ryan Mathews, 19 Andrew Luck; Charchian: 9 Julius Thomas, 17 Randall Cobb, 19 Zac Stacy, 20 Jordy Nelson; Clay: 18 Jordy Nelson; Deskovitz: 18 Andrew Luck; Enright: 15 Matthew Stafford, 16 Zac Stacy; Hale: 13 Zac Stacy; Holm: 20 Andre Ellington; Liss: 17 Zac Stacy, 18 Jordy Nelson; Livengood: 18 Matthew Stafford; Pappano: 19 Jordy Nelson; Planowski: 16 C.J. Spiller; Sachs: 14 Julius Thomas, 15 Rob Gronkowski, 16 Andrew Luck, 17 Matt Ryan, 18 Tom Brady, 19 Jay Cutler, 20 Jordy Nelson; Satterlee: 20 Keenan Allen.

Experts: Charles in charge; not interested in top QBs

If there's one constant we've seen in the Experts Poll over the years, it's a lack of interest in quarterbacks – even quarterbacks coming off record seasons.

Ten years ago, Peyton Manning threw a record 49 touchdowns; the next year, he ranked 5th overall in our experts poll. In 2007, Tom Brady tossed 50 TDs; he ranked 12th overall in the following year's poll.

Now Manning has raised the bar still higher – 55 touchdowns. And after 20 experts analyze the stats and values and stack their boards, he winds up exactly where Brady did: 12th. Guys like taking running backs early in fantasy drafts.

Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers also look promising this season, but four analysts on our panel didn't put any quarterbacks in their top 20 overall. That's just not where the value is, they reason.

"Unless you're in a 16-team league, you're guaranteed to get a very good quarterback very late," says Chris Liss. "A 20th overall pick on Manning or Brees is bad compared to a 9th-round pick of Russell Wilson or Colin Kaepernick."

Half of the experts put Manning in their

top 10, but only six were willing to put him in their top half dozen. Bill Enright and Michael Fabiano listed him at 5th and 6th, and Scott Sachs put the future Hall of Famer all the way up at No. 1.

"About 20 quarterbacks will throw 25 touchdowns or more, but the elite ones post incredible numbers – 40-50 touchdowns," Sachs says. "I'm no math wiz, but scoring wins fantasy football leagues. Quarterbacks are the highest scorers in fantasy football."

Fantasy owners seem to be warming to the idea of selecting a tight end with a first-round pick. Two years ago, Rob Gronkowski and Jimmy Graham (both coming off great years) finished 15th and 16th in this poll. Graham ranked 19th last year, but eight of the 20 experts said they wouldn't select him in the top 20.

This time Graham ranks 9th, and he's identified as a top-20 pick on every ballot. That's the highest a tight end has ever ranked in our poll (and we've been compiling them for 24 years). "Before his foot injury last year, Jimmy Graham was 2nd only to Peyton Manning in fantasy points," says Paul Charchian, who ranked Graham

4th overall. "Needless to say, getting Adrian Peterson-like production from your tight end is a massive advantage."

Tony Holm was the lowest on Graham, ranking him 18th overall. "For me, it's the deep pool at tight end which reduces Graham's value," Holm says. "The value at the tight end position will be to wait and cherrypick much later and to not spend a prized top draft pick on Jimmy Graham. But sure, if he's still there mid-to-late in the 2nd round, I'll bite."

Four wide receivers project to be first-round picks in typical leagues. Calvin Johnson leads the way at 4th, followed by Demaryius Thomas (8th), Dez Bryant (10th) and A.J. Green (11th). Brandon Marshall (13th) and Julio Jones (16th) are the only other wide receivers in the top 23.

Johnson ranked in the top 9 on every ballot but L'roy Anthony Hale's, who slotted him 20th.

"Johnson is 3rd on my wide receiver board due to chronic knee problems and nagging injuries, as well as a better supporting staff at the receiver positions," Hale says. "Johnson's fantasy numbers will be very good, just not the best at the wide receiver position."

QUARTERBACKS

Points	Bonini	Charchian	Clay	Deskowitz	Dorey	Enright	Fabiano	Hale	Hendricks	Henry	Holm	Hough	James	Liss	Livengood	Nazarek	Pappano	Pianowski	Sachs	Satterlee
1. Peyton Manning	494	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	
2. Drew Brees	478	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	
3. Aaron Rodgers	460	3	3	3	1	3	4	3	3	2	6	3	1	3	4	3	3	2	4	
4. Matthew Stafford	424	5	4	4	6	4	3	6	5	4	5	3	5	5	3	4	4	5	5	
5. Andrew Luck	411	2	10	8	4	5	5	4	7	4	5	4	8	5	9	5	6	4	3	
6. Nick Foles	369	8	5	5	5	6	9	10	10	11	4	6	9	4	8	6	8	6	18	6
7. Matt Ryan	367	10	7	7	8	7	8	12	6	5	9	11	10	4	6	7	7	5	11	
8. Cam Newton	342	17	6	9	12	11	10	5	11	6	10	7	9	7	9	5	10	9	10	7
9. Robert Griffin III	328	7	16	11	13	14	7	7	9	8	6	10	7	6	8	12	9	12	17	8
10. Tom Brady	312	9	13	6	11	8	11	10	4	9	7	12	12	11	11	15	12	14	6	12
11. Colin Kaepernick	303	13	12	12	9	12	9	8	13	14	12	9	8	12	12	16	10	10	8	9
12. Tony Romo	285	14	9	10	7	13	13	11	12	11	15	16	11	10	14	13	11	8	12	14
13. Philip Rivers	258	6	11	14	14	9	14	14	13	14	17	13	16	10	7	14	16	13	20	13
14. Jay Cutler	248	16	8	13	10	10	•	15	8	15	17	8	16	13	17	10	20	16	7	15
15. Russell Wilson	240	15	18	15	19	16	12	13	17	12	8	13	15	14	13	18	13	11	14	10
16. Andy Dalton	189	•	14	17	18	15	15	17	18	16	13	14	18	15	16	14	15	18	19	18
17. Ben Roethlisberger	186	12	17	18	15	19	19	16	17	18	15	17	18	15	17	17	19	17	13	16
18. Ryan Tannehill	105	11	19	20	•	18	•	20	•	•	16	20	•	19	19	20	16	•	18	•
19. Carson Palmer	103	19	15	•	•	17	16	•	15	•	•	18	•	20	•	11	19	13	20	•
20. Eli Manning	77	20	•	•	•	20	17	•	19	18	•	•	19	17	•	•	18	•	16	19
21. Alex Smith	73	•	20	16	20	•	18	18	•	19	19	19	•	•	18	•	20	•	•	•
22. Joe Flacco	50	•	•	•	16	•	20	•	•	20	20	•	•	•	19	•	•	•	11	•
23. Johnny Manziel	33	•	•	19	•	•	•	16	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	17	19	•	•
24. Sam Bradford	29	•	•	•	•	•	•	20	•	•	•	14	•	•	•	•	•	•	15	•
25. EJ Manuel	12	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	20	•	20	•	•	•	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Bonini: 18 Matt Schaub; Deskowitz: 17 Josh McCown; Satterlee: 20 Teddy Bridgewater.

Younger crop of passers rising behind Manning, Brees

Colin Kaepernick, Andrew Luck and Matt Ryan should be the most improved quarterbacks this year, while it could be time to move on from Andy Dalton, Alex Smith, Philip Rivers and Ben Roethlisberger. That's the consensus of the 20 experts in our poll.

No surprise at the top. Peyton Manning and Drew Brees occupied the top 2 spots, with Aaron Rodgers just a notch behind.

Only five experts didn't rank Manning first. Three went for Brees, and two chose Rodgers.

"I think Brees is going to have a better year," says Lroy Anthony Hale. "Brees may have the best receiving corps he has had in his time with the Saints. Manning will still be great and put up big numbers, but I think getting pushed around so badly in the Super Bowl will make the Broncos want to prove they can be more physical. This should mean an increased emphasis on running the ball."

Dalton was the biggest loser in this poll. He put up the 3rd-best numbers last year, but he finished only 16th in the poll. He didn't make anybody's top 12. Cincinnati's offensive coordinator, Jay Gruden, moved to Washington, and all but one of the experts rank Robert Griffin III higher than Dalton on their board. Griffin finished 8th in the poll.

"By all accounts RG3 is 100 percent healthy and will take advantage of his fresh start," says Lenny Pappano, who put Griffin all the way up at 5th.

Rivers, Smith and Roethlisberger were the other big decliners in the poll. They all finished 5 spots lower than where they placed statistically last year.

Kaepernick was the biggest climber in the poll. In terms of per-start fantasy production, he wasn't even a top-20 quarterback last year, but he finished in 11th. Only four experts didn't include him in their top 12. "Kaepernick has his moments, but he is just too inconsistent on a week-to-week basis," says Michael Livengood, who slotted him 16th.

Most everyone seems to agree that Luck will keep getting better. He finished 5th in this poll, well ahead of Nick Foles. All but seven of the experts placed Luck in their top 5. "I wouldn't be shocked if Luck outdoes Peyton this year," says Cory Bonini, who ranked Luck behind only the quarterback who preceded him in Indianapolis.

Ryan is the other big climber in the top 10. Coming off a down year, he still came in 7th.

Tom Brady also comes off a bad year, but he didn't improve by as much as you might expect. He's at the bottom of the top 10, and only four experts ranked him higher than 9th.

Foles comes off a big season, but few experts see him hanging with the likes of Matthew Stafford, Luck, or the three veterans at the top of the board. Only five analysts included Foles in their top 5 at this position. "He actually had a better per-play season than Peyton Manning last year," says Chris Liss, who ranked Foles 4th. "DeSean Jackson's gone, but he gets Darren Sproles and Jeremy Maclin in his stead, and Zach Ertz will be better in Year 2."

Russell Wilson helped Seattle win a Super Bowl last year, but nobody sees him making a big move up. Bob Henry ranked him 8th and Alan Satterlee slotted him 10th, but the vast majority put him in the teens. He finished in 15th, behind Tony Romo, Rivers and Jay Cutler.

Coming off lousy seasons, Eli Manning and Joe Flacco aren't seen as strong comeback candidates. Flacco makes the top 20 on only six ballots. Half of the experts didn't list Manning. Four experts chose to rank Johnny Manziel ahead of both of the former Super Bowl MVPs.

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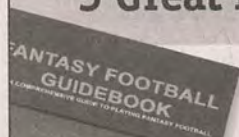
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R U N N I N G B A C K S

Points	Bonini	Charchian	Clay	Deskowitz	Dorey	Enright	Fabiano	Hale	Hendricks	Henry	Holm	Hough	James	Liss	Livengood	Nazarek	Pappano	Pianowski	Sachs	Satterlee
1. Jamaal Charles	483	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	3	2	3	2
2. Adrian Peterson	476	1	1	2	1	4	1	1	3	2	4	3	2	1	3	4	2	1	3	1
3. LeSean McCoy	472	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	4	2	1	2	3
4. Matt Forte	434	5	4	4	5	2	5	5	4	3	4	4	6	5	3	3	4	4	7	5
5. Eddie Lacy	416	4	6	6	4	6	8	6	5	6	6	6	3	4	5	6	5	6	5	1
6. Marshawn Lynch	403	7	7	5	6	7	7	4	6	5	5	5	5	7	6	5	8	5	4	8
7. Montee Ball	341	6	5	11	10	5	4	10	9	12	7	9	14	9	8	12	11	6	8	17
8. Arian Foster	331	13	12	9	7	9	12	7	8	8	11	11	8	8	9	8	10	11	15	6
9. LeVeon Bell	319	8	9	13	9	8	6	9	11	9	8	17	10	7	13	10	7	12	12	11
10. DeMarco Murray	311	10	10	7	14	13	•	8	10	7	12	10	7	11	11	7	8	7	9	10
11. Doug Martin	305	12	17	10	12	10	9	11	12	10	9	7	9	10	14	13	9	10	7	14
12. Alfred Morris	262	9	14	14	11	15	13	17	7	11	16	20	15	14	6	9	14	16	11	13
13. Zac Stacy	262	15	8	12	13	14	10	13	13	15	8	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	•	15
14. Giovani Bernard	261	14	18	8	8	11	11	12	16	14	10	•	12	13	12	15	13	9	13	15
15. C.J. Spiller	179	16	11	•	15	12	15	•	20	15	•	12	13	•	15	16	18	14	10	9
16. Andre Ellington	161	19	13	15	20	14	15	17	17	19	13	19	15	•	17	•	15	16	•	17
17. Reggie Bush	121	•	15	•	16	19	•	14	18	16	13	19	•	19	16	•	16	•	18	18
18. Ryan Mathews	114	11	•	•	18	•	20	16	15	18	17	•	•	•	20	14	15	17	17	•
19. Bishop Sankey	89	•	20	17	•	18	17	•	•	•	•	20	16	17	20	•	19	19	•	14
20. Chris Johnson	85	•	•	•	•	16	16	•	•	•	•	16	•	17	19	17	•	•	11	18
21. Toby Gerhart	60	18	•	20	•	17	•	•	14	•	•	15	•	20	•	•	•	18	•	•
22. Joique Bell	56	•	•	•	17	•	•	•	•	14	•	•	•	18	18	20	20	•	•	19
23. Ray Rice	50	17	•	•	•	•	20	•	19	•	•	16	•	•	•	•	•	•	8	•
24. Frank Gore	43	•	•	19	19	•	18	•	•	20	18	•	•	•	•	19	•	•	•	•
25. Ben Tate	34	20	•	•	•	•	19	18	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	20	19	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Charchian: 16 Shane Vereen, 19 Pierre Thomas; Clay: 16 Rashad Jennings, 18 Steven Jackson; Fabiano: 19 Shane Vereen; Hale: 19 Stevan Ridley; Hendricks: 20 Trent Richardson; Henry: 18 Rashad Jennings; Holm: 14 Knowshon Moreno; Hough: 17 Trent Richardson, 18 Rashad Jennings; Sachs: 16 Steven Jackson, 20 Shane Vereen; Satterlee: 16 Trent Richardson, 20 Devonta Freeman.

Experts go with 3-way running back by committee

There's a three-man tier at the top of draft boards this year. Jamaal Charles, Adrian Peterson and LeSean McCoy are near the top of everyone's draft lists, but there's no agreement about who should go No. 1.

For the first time in the 24-year history of this endeavor, no running back received more than half of the first-place votes. Eight went with Charles, eight went with Peterson, and three went with McCoy.

Only Micah James didn't put Charles in his top 3, and only Michael Nazarek dropped McCoy down to 4th. Four experts put Peterson down at 4th. But these are the guys who'll be the first three picks in the vast majority of fantasy drafts.

"I'd be thrilled to have any one of these three running backs on my fantasy roster," says Michael Fabiano. "I have Peterson ranked first because, well, he's Peterson, and I think the addition of new offensive coordinator Norv Turner just makes him that much more of a statistical asset."

James says he still considers Charles part of the top tier of running backs. He just moved Eddie Lacy up ahead of him into the top 3. "Charles was All-Planet in 2013 which reeks of regression in 2014," James

says. "Additionally, I expect Andy Reid to look to ease Charles' workload more this season after his playoff injury and seeing Knile Davis show flashes of ability."

Of the three, Charles lands in the No. 1 spot. In head-to-head comparisons, he beats Peterson 12-8 and McCoy 13-7. But there is little separation between these three. "In PPR, he is head and shoulders above the rest," says Bryan Hough, "but with this being a standard ranking system the top 4 running backs are very close. Regardless, he is still the centerpiece of an Andy Reid-driven offense."

Matt Forte is firmly entrenched as the No. 4 back; 60 percent of the panel ranked him in their top 4, and only two ranked him lower than 5th. Three ranked Forte higher than Peterson. "Forte is a perfect fit in Marc Trestman's offense as a dual-threat back," says Bob Henry. "Peterson has more upside, but Forte feels like a safer pick. That said, I'd have a difficult time picking between the two."

Two other backs look like guaranteed first-round picks. Eddie Lacy and Marshawn Lynch tie 10-10 in a head-to-head comparison, but Lacy appears higher because more analysts are nervous about Lynch's age and workload. Only one expert didn't put Lacy

in his top 6, but seven experts dropped Lynch to either 7th or 8th. "I think Seattle will begin to work in the highly talented Christine Michael more, prepping Michael to take over in 2015," says Alan Satterlee.

"If you count the playoffs, Lynch had a career-high 401 touches last year," Lenny Pappano says. "We just hope Beast Mode doesn't become Least Mode with all that wear and tear."

Around the bottom of the top 10, running backs that have had injury problems start to show up. Arian Foster and Doug Martin both missed over half of last season, but they finished 8th and 11th. "Sometimes a short memory is your best friend in this fantasy racket," says Scott Pianowski, who was the lowest on Foster but as high as anyone on Martin.

DeMarco Murray has a lengthy history of missing time, but he came in 10th. Only three experts didn't put Murray in their top 12. "I actually wonder why everyone is so high on Murray," says Tom Deskowitz. "This is a guy that's never made it through a full season without injury and his new offensive coordinator says he wants to run more. If he can't stay healthy with his current workload, imagine what might happen with more carries."

WIDE RECEIVERS

Points	Bonini	Charchian	Clay	Deskovitz	Dorey	Enright	Fabiano	Hale	Hendricks	Henry	Holm	Hough	James	Liss	Livengood	Nazarek	Pappano	Pianowski	Sachs	Satterlee
1. Calvin Johnson	492	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	
2. Demaryius Thomas	477	2	1	2	5	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	4	2	2	2	1	2	3	1
3. Dez Bryant	449	4	3	3	2	9	2	1	4	4	2	3	2	3	4	3	4	5	4	
4. A.J. Green	440	3	5	5	6	5	4	4	3	3	6	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	2	3
5. Brandon Marshall	420	5	4	6	3	4	3	6	5	5	3	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	4	7
6. Julio Jones	408	7	10	4	4	7	5	5	6	7	5	5	3	6	6	6	5	5	6	5
7. Jordy Nelson	354	6	8	7	8	11	8	9	8	8	7	8	9	8	8	8	7	7	9	14
8. Antonio Brown	343	9	9	8	9	3	10	8	7	9	11	7	10	13	7	7	10	8	15	10
9. Alshon Jeffery	342	10	7	9	15	8	7	10	9	6	10	9	8	7	10	10	8	9	11	6
10. Randall Cobb	297	15	6	12	7	6	9	12	11	10	11	•	11	15	12	11	9	10	10	9
11. Vincent Jackson	277	8	11	19	10	13	13	18	10	11	10	8	18	7	11	9	15	13	18	12
12. Andre Johnson	240	13	17	11	20	16	14	13	20	13	12	12	13	14	9	13	12	18	12	16
13. Larry Fitzgerald	229	11	15	13	11	14	17	11	13	14	14	18	20	17	14	12	13	18	8	•
14. Keenan Allen	226	17	•	10	18	10	15	19	12	12	16	16	10	16	10	15	17	14	14	19
15. Victor Cruz	206	12	•	17	12	12	11	17	14	15	•	9	14	13	16	20	16	16	14	18
16. Pierre Garcon	202	14	18	15	•	18	12	16	17	18	13	•	12	12	19	14	18	11	17	11
17. Wes Welker	142	19	14	14	•	15	20	15	16	17	•	14	•	•	•	16	14	•	15	7
18. Michael Crabtree	119	•	13	•	13	•	16	14	18	•	•	15	16	11	17	•	17	•	•	17
19. Michael Floyd	83	16	•	•	•	19	18	•	19	•	20	•	•	•	15	19	19	13	•	19
20. Cordarrelle Patterson	78	•	•	20	17	•	•	20	•	20	18	13	•	•	18	17	•	•	•	13
21. Roddy White	76	•	•	18	14	•	•	•	•	•	17	19	17	•	20	•	15	19	19	•
22. DeSean Jackson	56	20	•	•	•	•	•	15	19	15	•	19	•	•	18	•	•	•	20	•
23. T.Y. Hilton	55	•	20	•	16	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	20	•	•	•	•	17	13	15
24. Percy Harvin	55	•	12	•	19	•	•	•	16	•	•	•	18	•	•	•	•	20	16	•
25. Torrey Smith	26	•	16	16	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	20	•	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Bonini: 18 Kendall Wright; Charchian: 19 Riley Cooper; Dorey: 17 Jeremy Maclin, 20 Mike Wallace; Enright: 19 Emmanuel Sanders; Fabiano: 7 Josh Gordon; Henry: 19 Kendall Wright; Holm: 17 Eric Decker, 20 Reggie Wayne; Hough: 15 Jeremy Maclin; James: 19 Cecil Shorts III; Pappano: 20 Terrance Williams; Satterlee: 20 Kelvin Benjamin.

Biggest WR buzz for a pair of Yellow Jacket alums

It looks like Georgia Tech will have the first two wide receivers selected in drafts this year. Calvin Johnson is a clear No. 1 – first on 75 percent of the ballots – and Demaryius Thomas is even more firmly entrenched at No. 2. Only four of the experts didn't rank Thomas in the top 2.

Only two experts dropped Johnson lower than 2nd. Lroy Anthony Hale put him 3rd, and Tony Holm put him 4th. "He's a solid pick no matter how you slice it," Holm says. "But defenses are getting better at taking a player out of the game, and I think that will have an effect on Johnson. Injuries have also started to creep into his game."

The orders vary, but the panel pretty much agrees on the rest of the top 10. The next seven receivers all appear in the top 10 on at least 85 percent of the ballots. Randall Cobb and Vincent Jackson finish in 10th and 11th, each ranking in the top 10 in the eyes of just under half of the experts.

Along with Cobb, the top 25 includes four other receivers who were plagued by injuries last year – Julio Jones (6th), Michael Crabtree (18th), Roddy White (21st) and Percy Harvin (24th). Jones shows up in the top 10 on every ballot, and only one expert

ranks him lower than 7th. "Before he got hurt in Week 5, Julio was practically on pace to lap the field averaging over 14 fantasy points per game," says Micah James. "As long as he can avoid re-aggravating the foot and stay on the field, I expect Jones to pick up where he left off."

There was essentially no interest in Eric Decker. He was a top-10 receiver in Denver last year, but after moving to the Jets he made it on the top 20 list of only one analyst (Holm).

Josh Gordon led all wide receivers in production last year, but reports in May suggested he might be suspended for the entire season. That was enough to scare off all of the analysts except Michael Fabiano, who ranked him 7th. "I dropped him several spots due to the threat of a suspension, but how can I drop him significantly until I hear how much time he will actually miss?" Fabiano said. "In terms of Josh Gordon (and even Ray Rice), there should really be a disclaimer due to the fact that both could be suspended. None of us can accurately rank these guys until we hear about their suspensions."

The experts aren't particularly excited about DeSean Jackson. He ranked 10th in

scoring but finished only 22nd in the poll, appearing on the lists of only seven experts. Only one expert (Lroy Anthony Hale) ranked Jackson higher than teammate Pierre Garcon, who finished 16th.

Only one rookie receiver received a vote. Alan Satterlee ranked Kelvin Benjamin 20th. No votes for Sammy Watkins, Mike Evans, Odell Beckham or Brandin Cooks.

Two players who ranked among the top 18 wide receivers last year didn't receive any votes at all: Julian Edelman and Anquan Boldin. Edelman is a top-10 wide receiver on the *Fantasy Football Index* board elsewhere in the magazine.

The Eagles put up big passing numbers last year, but there was only nominal interest in their pass catchers. Riley Cooper got only one vote, and Jeremy Maclin received only two.

Two teams put multiple receivers in the top 10: The Packers, with Cobb and Jordy Nelson, and the Bears with Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery. Marshall and Jeffery put up similar numbers at the end of last year, but 19 of the 20 experts ranked the older, more proven receiver higher. Marshall finished 5th overall, while Jeffery ranked 9th.

TIGHT ENDS

Points	Bonini	Charchian	Clay	Deskovitz	Dorey	Enright	Fabiano	Hale	Hendricks	Henry	Holm	Hough	James	Liss	Livengood	Nazarek	Pappano	Pianowski	Sachs	Satterlee
1. Jimmy Graham	500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2. Julius Thomas	475	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
3. Rob Gronkowski	437	3	11	3	3	5	4	2	2	2	8	6	3	3	3	3	5	3	8	8
4. Vernon Davis	426	5	3	8	6	4	5	4	6	7	2	3	4	4	4	7	5	2	4	5
5. Jason Witten	401	4	9	4	4	8	7	6	8	4	5	4	6	9	5	4	8	6	5	9
6. Jordan Cameron	397	9	4	6	7	6	9	9	4	5	7	9	5	7	5	6	5	4	7	3
7. Greg Olsen	390	6	7	5	5	3	11	7	5	6	4	7	8	5	6	8	6	4	9	11
8. Dennis Pitta	344	7	10	7	8	7	6	5	7	9	15	6	12	9	7	13	10	6	8	14
9. Jordan Reed	337	11	8	10	12	11	3	8	9	8	12	5	7	11	8	7	8	9	10	10
10. Kyle Rudolph	297	8	5	9	10	10	10	10	11	14	•	10	8	•	10	13	10	9	7	7
11. Zach Ertz	277	10	6	12	11	9	12	13	13	12	8	•	11	15	12	16	15	12	14	4
12. Martellus Bennett	264	16	16	11	9	16	17	11	12	10	9	•	15	10	11	12	9	11	12	15
13. Charles Clay	259	14	12	14	17	13	13	12	11	13	13	11	9	12	10	14	14	16	11	18
14. Antonio Gates	192	15	17	19	15	19	15	17	•	17	10	14	18	18	14	17	12	17	15	20
15. Heath Miller	187	20	20	15	14	18	•	18	14	16	17	17	14	14	13	18	11	18	13	•
16. Eric Ebron	170	•	18	16	16	•	8	14	20	18	18	13	19	20	9	•	13	20	17	13
17. Delanie Walker	164	12	15	13	13	12	20	19	15	•	20	16	17	20	•	11	18	15	16	•
18. Jared Cook	128	18	•	17	18	14	•	16	16	19	11	20	19	•	15	20	16	•	17	•
19. Ladarius Green	124	•	14	18	19	20	16	•	18	•	10	•	•	19	15	19	14	•	•	6
20. Tyler Eifert	116	13	13	20	20	17	18	•	19	15	•	•	•	16	•	17	•	19	19	16
21. Dwayne Allen	89	•	•	•	•	14	20	•	•	19	12	•	13	17	•	20	•	18	•	12
22. Garrett Graham	83	17	•	•	15	•	15	•	14	•	13	16	17	•	•	•	•	•	18	•
23. Jace Amaro	30	•	•	•	•	19	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	19	•	19	•	•	17
24. Jermaine Gresham	26	•	19	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	15	•	•	18	•	•	•	•	•	•
25. Travis Kelce	26	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	16	•	•	16	•	•	•	20	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Bonini: 19 Levine Toilolo; Hale: 17 Coby Fleener, 18 Marcedes Lewis; Holm: 19 Mychal Rivera; Hough: 20 Levine Toilolo; Sachs: 15 Coby Fleener, 20 Marcedes Lewis; Satterlee: 19 Austin Seferian-Jenkins.

Consensus on Graham & Thomas, not as clear on Gronk

There are 189 players in this year's Experts Poll. Jimmy Graham is the only one everyone agrees on — he's the No. 1 tight end on every ballot. No surprise there.

But Julius Thomas, in the 2nd spot, is almost as firmly entrenched. Only five experts didn't put him in the runner-up position, and all of them at least put him in the top 3. Thomas is definitely the No. 2 tight end on most boards.

It's at Rob Gronkowski, in the No. 3 spot, where we start seeing some different opinions as the panel tries to weigh his upside against the considerable risk he'll miss some games. About two thirds of the panel (13) decided that the New England tight end should be selected before the likes of Vernon Davis, Jason Witten and Jordan Cameron.

"When active, he's arguably the most valuable player in fantasy," says Mike Clay. "He's risky coming off the injury, but I'm betting that he appears in more than three quarters of New England's games, which is enough to warrant the No. 3 spot."

Only three analysts pushed Gronkowski well down their boards. Alan Satterlee and Tony Holm both ranked him 8th, and Paul Charchian dropped him all the way to 11th.

"Naturally, the cloak-and-dagger Patriots

are being coy with his rehab, but my best guess has Gronk missing a couple months," Charchian says. "Asking a guy his size to come back from ACL and MCL injuries on an Adrian-like schedule isn't realistic."

Vernon Davis secured the No. 4 spot pretty easily. Half of the panel put him in their top 4, and only three were willing to drop him lower than 6th — Clay, Sam Hendricks and Michael Nazarek.

"The guy caught less than 60 passes last year and now a healthy Crabtree, Boldin and newbie Stevie Johnson will steal more looks and scoring chances from him," Nazarek said.

Jordan Cameron comes off a big season, but he was unable to make a serious push to crack the top 5. Jason Witten appeared higher on 70 percent of the ballots. "The kid (Cameron) is way talented, but losing Rob Chudzinski and Norv Turner is going to sting," Lenny Pappano says. "Beyond that, the quarterback situation in Cleveland will likely be unsettled this year."

Cameron, however, came in just ahead of Greg Olsen. Most experts, it seems, didn't give Olsen much of a bump for being essentially the only returning pass catcher in Carolina. Only seven put Olsen in their top 5. "Who

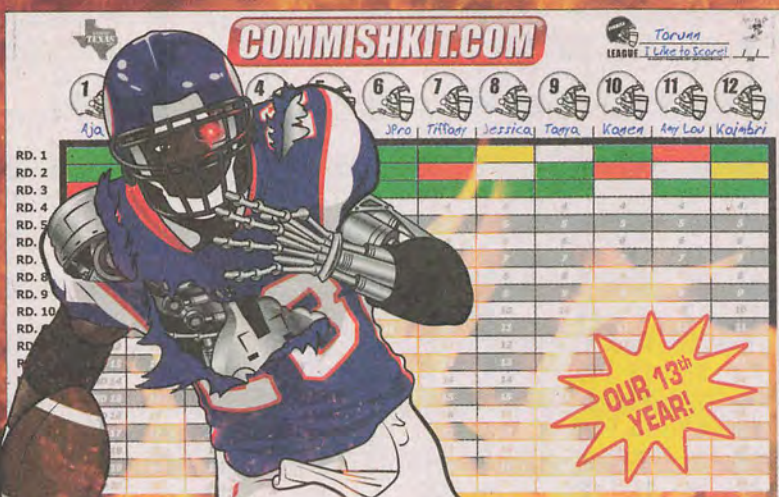
else is Cam Newton going to throw to?" says Scott Pianowski. "I hate to have specific target players — I'm more of an agnostic drafter — but I am absolutely targeting Olsen this summer."

Dennis Pitta comes off an injury-shortened season, but the experts in general like the way he projects into Gary Kubiak's offense. Michael Fabiano has him all the way up at 5th. Only four ranked him lower than 10th. Bob Henry is the most cautious, slotting him all the way down at 15th.

"There are plenty of targets for Joe Flacco this year, new and old," Henry says. "Steve Smith could chip away at Pitta's role in the slot. Marlon Brown's red-zone ability somewhat limits or caps Pitta there. And Owen Daniels is now in the mix and is a much better receiver than Ed Dickson was."

A tight end who's hardly in the top 30 in the position rankings elsewhere in the magazine, Jordan Reed, showed up in the top 12 on all but one of the ballots in the poll. Bill Enright ranked him No. 3. "If you look at what the Bengals did with two tight ends the last few years and now envision what Jay Gruden can do with an even more talented, solo player, it's hard to imagine him having a year with less than 800 yards and 8 TDs," Enright says.

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PLACEKICKERS

Points	Bonini	Charchian	Clay	Deskowitz	Dorey	Enright	Fabiano	Hale	Hendricks	Henry	Holm	Hough	James	Liss	Livengood	Nazarek	Pappano	Pianowski	Sachs	Satterlee
1. Stephen Gostkowski	477	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	2	1	1	4	2	3	3	1	6	1	2	4
2. Matt Prater	470	6	2	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	4	2	1	4	1	2	4	4	1	6
3. Justin Tucker	440	2	4	4	5	7	6	4	4	3	3	5	6	6	2	5	3	2	5	1
4. Phil Dawson	437	4	7	5	6	4	2	5	3	5	5	4	2	8	1	6	3	1	3	4
5. Steven Hauschka	416	5	3	3	12	5	1	3	5	4	2	10	3	13	2	4	4	15	5	3
6. Dan Bailey	351	7	14	6	13	20	9	6	7	6	6	11	6	4	9	7	9	5	6	9
7. Mason Crosby	348	10	8	8	9	3	8	7	6	9	7	8	9	9	8	10	6	10	14	8
8. Matt Bryant	343	15	12	9	3	6	11	11	8	8	9	7	3	16	11	11	2	7	6	11
9. Nick Novak	335	3	9	10	7	14	10	8	12	13	9	13	11	5	11	5	8	14	8	12
10. Blair Walsh	302	•	5	7	18	11	19	9	14	7	10	6	8	11	10	16	10	8	9	7
11. Adam Vinatieri	301	8	11	11	4	8	7	10	•	10	11	5	10	12	15	12	7	11	17	14
12. Robbie Gould	271	•	10	14	10	10	17	12	10	11	12	14	12	10	5	13	12	9	11	13
13. Shayne Graham	248	19	6	12	8	•	12	13	8	16	13	7	20	7	12	8	13	7	13	•
14. Alex Henery	194	18	16	•	11	15	13	14	13	14	14	•	14	•	7	14	20	19	10	10
15. Greg Zuerlein	176	•	15	15	15	17	20	•	9	15	15	•	13	•	18	15	15	20	15	11
16. Jay Feely	138	9	13	20	17	16	16	15	18	•	•	20	•	•	17	18	•	12	20	15
17. Nate Freese	138	12	19	•	14	•	5	•	20	12	16	17	•	•	•	•	18	13	12	•
18. Ryan Succop	124	•	17	16	20	•	•	20	•	18	17	15	16	•	14	9	16	18	•	18
19. Caleb Sturgis	105	20	•	18	19	13	18	16	•	•	18	•	•	20	13	•	•	•	18	•
20. Nick Folk	102	17	18	19	•	9	•	18	•	•	19	16	•	•	•	20	17	•	•	17
21. Sebastian Janikowski	101	16	•	13	•	•	15	17	•	19	20	•	•	15	19	19	•	16	•	16
22. Shaun Suisham	79	•	•	•	16	12	•	•	•	•	•	12	18	14	•	•	14	•	•	•
23. Graham Gano	68	14	•	17	•	•	•	19	•	17	•	18	17	•	•	•	•	•	•	19
24. Mike Nugent	63	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	16	20	•	•	19	17	20	17	•	17	19	•
25. Randy Bullock	48	13	•	•	•	18	•	•	•	•	•	19	•	18	•	•	•	•	•	20

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Bonini: 11 Dan Carpenter; Charchian: 20 Dan Carpenter; Dorey: 19 Connor Barth; Enright: 14 Josh Brown; Hale: 15 Kai Forbath, 17 Dan Carpenter, 19 Connor Barth; Hough: 15 Kai Forbath; James: 16 Josh Brown, 19 Connor Barth; Nazarek: 19 Josh Brown; Pianowski: 16 Kai Forbath; Satterlee: 13 Connor Barth.

Gostkowski tops all scorers, but may not go No.1

As well as Stephen Gostkowski played last year, he won't necessarily be the first kicker chosen in your draft. That's the vibe that comes out of our poll.

There are 20 experts on this panel, and only nine of them listed Gostkowski as the No. 1 kicker. Seven went with Matt Prater, with the remaining first-place votes spread amongst Justin Tucker, Phil Dawson and Steven Hauschka.

Scoring 158 points, it's clear, is not enough to secure a consensus No. 1 ranking. There are too many other high-scoring options at this position.

"Gostkowski had at least 2 field goals in every regular-season game last year, and I don't see that repeating itself," says Michael Livengood.

But it's not as if Gostkowski is an unproven one-year wonder. Scott Pianowski points out that he's led kickers in scoring three times, and he's finished 3rd twice. "I'm unlikely to chase an early kicker, but at a position laced with land mines and flavor of the weeks, he's Mr. Consistency," Pianowski says.

Only four experts ranked the New England kicker lower than 3rd. "I still think he is a top kicker, but there may be more

extra points than field goals in the Patriots offense if (Rob) Gronkowski is healthy," says Bryan Hough, who ranked him 4th.

Almost half (9 of 20) of the experts ranked Prater higher than Gostkowski. "Peyton Manning has put Prater into the top 5 of kicking," says Sam Hendricks. "He went 6 of 7 from 50-plus yards last year, and a few more field goals than extra points should mean a top finish for the Bronco kicker."

There's essentially no difference between the 3rd and 4th kickers. Compared head-to-head, Tucker and Dawson tie 10-10. There's a slight dip down to Hauschka, but he's way ahead of the next tier of kickers. All but two of the experts (90 percent) rank Hauschka ahead of Dan Bailey, who shades Mason Crosby to finish 6th in the poll.

Matt Bryant and Shayne Graham are the big risers at this position. Bryant was terrible last year, with Atlanta's offense plagued by injuries and poor offensive line play, but he finished 8th in the poll. Graham ranked 13th in the poll, even though he was out of the league for most of last season (the Saints picked him up late in the year). Over a third of the panelists included Graham in their top 8.

"Shayne Graham is just a guy – totally replaceable," Paul Charchian says. "But, until someone beats him out, he's the starting kicker for one of the elite offenses in football. As we all know with kickers, their success is less about ability than it is opportunity."

Dan Carpenter, Shaun Suisham and guys named Nick got little love. Carpenter and Suisham both ranked in the top 11 in scoring last year, but they ranked only 28th and 22nd in the poll – even though their teams in theory should be better this year. Only two experts even voted for Carpenter at all, and only seven mentioned Suisham.

Nick Novak ranked 3rd in kicker points last year, but he finished only 9th in the poll. Similarly, Nick Folk dropped from 13th to 20th.

Blair Walsh isn't kicking indoors this year, but that didn't seem to hurt him much in the poll. He ranked 15th in scoring among kickers last year, but he finished 10th in the poll. Only one expert didn't include him in his top 20.

"Have you ever been to Minneapolis in November and December?" says Cory Bonini. "No. Thank. You. Walsh probably will finish in the mid-teens, but I can live with that if I am wrong."

DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS

Points	Bonini	Charchian	Clay	Deskovitz	Dorey	Enright	Fabiano	Hale	Hendricks	Henry	Holm	Hough	James	Liss	Livengood	Nazarek	Pappano	Pianowski	Sachs	Satterlee
1. Seattle	482	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	8	3	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
2. San Francisco	450	4	2	2	2	3	2	10	2	3	1	1	4	6	3	4	5	8	2	4
3. St. Louis	426	2	4	4	5	3	6	8	1	8	8	7	4	9	8	2	2	1	2	8
4. Carolina	402	8	6	3	9	4	4	3	6	5	16	2	12	4	7	3	7	5	5	3
5. Arizona	388	5	3	5	6	7	1	6	3	5	6	•	5	10	2	5	6	4	3	15
6. Cincinnati	387	11	11	7	8	5	7	5	4	3	2	6	8	2	7	8	5	12	4	11
7. Denver	374	7	8	9	3	6	5	9	7	4	4	•	7	1	11	10	8	3	9	3
8. New England	345	12	7	10	4	10	16	7	9	7	7	3	10	5	10	9	14	6	12	12
9. Kansas City	343	6	5	6	7	8	8	4	8	9	13	4	6	•	14	6	7	10	7	9
10. Houston	282	10	13	15	11	13	9	•	15	13	15	18	13	3	5	4	9	8	16	10
11. Buffalo	248	18	14	11	17	12	20	13	14	•	14	15	11	8	3	11	12	9	11	17
12. Cleveland	246	17	•	12	18	19	11	10	12	14	12	11	9	16	•	12	11	17	6	4
13. Chicago	239	3	12	16	19	9	•	14	16	10	10	2	20	17	•	•	10	11	10	7
14. Baltimore	237	•	10	8	15	17	13	11	11	11	•	15	15	12	20	16	15	15	6	10
15. Tampa Bay	211	9	•	14	13	11	10	12	5	16	•	19	•	13	19	16	13	14	13	•
16. New Orleans	163	20	18	13	12	18	15	•	13	15	16	•	12	•	9	14	•	13	•	13
17. Green Bay	155	13	15	18	10	•	19	•	19	19	13	•	20	13	17	15	•	14	19	18
18. Pittsburgh	153	•	•	17	•	20	12	17	•	12	9	5	17	11	•	15	•	19	18	13
19. Miami	109	•	•	19	16	•	17	16	20	•	18	17	18	•	20	18	19	20	17	•
20. NY Jets	106	19	19	20	•	15	•	•	17	20	•	•	6	16	•	17	18	19	20	•
21. Philadelphia	81	15	•	•	14	•	18	19	17	20	•	•	19	•	17	•	•	•	14	•
22. NY Giants	76	•	20	•	•	14	20	18	18	•	•	14	•	15	•	•	•	20	•	19
23. Detroit	64	•	•	•	16	•	•	•	•	•	20	•	•	•	13	20	16	•	18	15
24. Tennessee	54	•	•	•	14	•	18	•	•	•	9	16	19	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
25. Minnesota	39	•	17	•	20	•	•	•	•	•	14	•	14	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Bonini: 14 Washington, 16 Oakland Raiders; Charchian: 9 Indianapolis Colts, 16 Dallas Cowboys; Fabiano: 15 Indianapolis Colts; Henry: 17 San Diego Chargers; Holm: 10 Washington, 12 Dallas Cowboys; James: 18 Atlanta Falcons; Liss: 18 San Diego Chargers; Livengood: 19 Jacksonville Jaguars; Nazarek: 18 Dallas Cowboys; Sachs: 15 Atlanta Falcons, 20 Indianapolis Colts.

Seattle is top prize in bountiful NFC West goodie bag

When it comes to defenses, the NFC West is the NFC Best. Remarkably, all four teams in that division rank in the top 5 in our poll.

The Super Bowl champions lead it off, and no other defense is even close. Only two experts ranked the Seahawks lower than 3rd, and they were the No. 1 choice on 70 percent of the ballots.

"I am not one to overpay for a defense," says Alan Satterlee. "But if you are ranking defenses I don't see how Seattle doesn't get placed No. 1."

While the Seahawks look like the top dog, however, nobody is banging the drum that they should be selected any earlier than a typical top-rated defense.

"Defenses are notorious for being hard to project, and Seattle is no different," says David Dorey. "There is minimal difference between Seattle and the next three defenses for a fantasy team."

The 49ers and Rams finished in the next two spots, while the division's fourth team, Arizona, settled in behind Carolina. (These picks were made in late May, before Cardinals had one of their better players, Daryl Washington, suspended for the season.) These rankings are based on 2 points for takeaways, 1 for sacks and 6 points for touchdowns (including kick returns).

San Francisco's defense seemingly has some obstacles to overcome, with NaVorro Bowman trying to come back from a serious knee injury and Aldon Smith embroiled in off-field issues, but only four experts didn't rank that team in the top 4. L'roy Hale was the coolest of the field on the 49ers, dropping them down to 10th.

"The 49ers are without question one of the best defenses in the NFL, but in fantasy football they are not an elite defense," Hale says. "The last two years, San Francisco has finished as the 8th- and 15th-best defense in fantasy football. I expect it will regress in 2014."

The Rams seemingly have a stronger pass rush than the 49ers and a better kick returner, but they finished behind San Francisco on 13 of the 20 ballots. And nobody seems overly excited about any of these units.

"I refuse to spend anything earlier than a 14th-round pick on a defense," says Cory Bonini. "Look at KC last year. They were undrafted and finished as the top defense. Anyone who picks a defense in the middle rounds just doesn't want to win. They do not understand relative value and are wasting a pick that could be spent on finding a sleeper at a skill position."

The Texans ranked 32nd in defensive scoring last year, but they have a new coaching staff and used the No. 1 pick on Jadeveon Clowney. They also have J.J. Watt, who had over 20 sacks two years ago. Whatever the reason, they got the attention of the panelists, who collectively ranked them 10th. Only Michael Fabiano didn't include Houston in his top 20.

"The Texans had the worst defense in all of fantasy football last season, and the last time I checked Watt was a member of that unit," Fabiano said. "Is Clowney's presence enough to move this defense up 20-plus spots from a fantasy perspective? Not all by himself."

Two other teams finished 10 spots higher than where they ranked last year. New Orleans had the 4th-worst fantasy defense last year, but it ranked 16th in the poll. The Jets improved from 30th to 20th.

The Cowboys are the favorites to have the least-improved defense, and this poll was conducted days before middle linebacker Sean Lee suffered a season-ending knee injury at practice in late May. Dallas released DeMarcus Ware, who has been its best pass rusher. That defense ranked 10th in fantasy points last year but finished only 26th in the poll.

Fantasy Football Index Mock Draft

Every year since 2003, we've gathered together 12 fantasy experts for a mock draft competition. This typically takes place shortly after the actual draft, so picks are sometimes damaged (or aided) by injuries, retirements, unretirements and suspensions.

To mitigate such issues, we go 22 rounds, and these teams compete in a best-ball format where they'll get the best performers at each position each week: 1 QB, 2 RBs, 3 WRs, 1 TE, 1 PK, 1 Team D. Starters get 1 point for every 10 rush/rec yards or 20 passing yards, 6 points for touchdowns, and 4 points for TD passes. Defenses get 1 point for sacks, 2 for turnovers, and 6 touchdowns (including special teams).

Last year's champion was Christopher Liss of Rotowire, who blistered the field with a powerhouse lineup featuring Andrew Luck, Jamaal Charles, Ryan Mathews, Josh Gordon, Demaryius Thomas, Michael Floyd and Vernon Davis. Even his defense (Kansas City) was outstanding. Tough to keep a champion together, but he has Thomas and Floyd on his roster again this year.

The field is comprised of the top 11 finishers in our Experts Poll, including winner Scott Pianowski of Yahoo! Sports. Given first choice of draft position, he opted for No. 4. "I'm generally not a fan of picking first, where you have the longest wait and can't use 'neighborhood information' to your advantage," said Pianowski. "I wanted to slide down the first round and still get a high-floor running back I felt strongly about (there simply aren't many of them these days). Mission accomplished with Matt Forte."

The 12th spot went to Mark Maloney of Shoreview, Minn. He's not an industry analyst like the others, but he proved his worth last year in our Fantasy Index Super League competition. Look for details on this year's Super League at our website.

The rosters the guys selected are what they're stuck with – no trades or free agent pickups. It's all based on who picked the best team. We'll track the results of this league, posting periodic updates at our website, and crown the champion at the end of Week 16.

Team 1 David Dodds Footballguys.com	Team 2 Mike Clay Pro Football Focus	Team 3 L'roy Anthony Hale Fantasy First	Team 4 Scott Pianowski Yahoo! Sports	Team 5 David Dorey The Huddle
Jamaal Charles	Adrian Peterson	LeSean McCoy	Matt Forte	Marshawn Lynch
Giovani Bernard	Brandon Marshall	Zac Stacy	Jordy Nelson	Arian Foster
Antonio Brown	Keenan Allen	Drew Brees	Aaron Rodgers	Randall Cobb
Chris Johnson	Torrey Smith	DeSean Jackson	Andre Ellington	Matthew Stafford
Rashad Jennings	Shane Vereen	Josh Gordon	T.Y. Hilton	Toby Gerhart
Kendall Wright	Percy Harvin	Julian Edelman	Golden Tate	Jeremy Maclin
Marques Colston	Knowshon Moreno	Reggie Wayne	Riley Cooper	Mike Wallace
Robert Griffin III	Kyle Rudolph	Terrance West	Pierre Thomas	Dennis Pitta
Matt Ryan	Darren Sproles	DeAngelo Williams	Greg Jennings	Philip Rivers
Martellus Bennett	Aaron Dobson	Jay Cutler	Danny Woodhead	Jeremy Hill
Tavon Austin	Ben Roethlisberger	Charles Clay	Andy Dalton	Carson Palmer
Danny Amendola	Rueben Randle	Tyler Eifert	Delanie Walker	James Jones
Andre Brown	Christine Michael	Lamar Miller	Heath Miller	Jared Cook
Knile Davis	Jake Locker	Andre Williams	Stevie Johnson	Donald Brown
Brian Hartline	Garrett Graham	Jarrett Boykin	Michael Vick	Jermichael Finley
Denver	Kansas City	Arizona	Roy Helu	San Francisco
New England	Travis Kelce	Matt Prater	Jacquizz Rodgers	Cincinnati
Dan Bailey	Matt Schaub	Tampa Bay	Cleveland	Mason Crosby
Coby Fleener	Cody Latimer	Ahmad Bradshaw	Blair Walsh	Lance Moore
Levine Toilolo	New Orleans	Mohamed Sanu	Harry Douglas	Greg Zuerlein
Shayne Graham	Ryan Succop	Mike Williams	Pittsburgh	Robert Turbin
Donnie Avery	Nick Folk	Kai Forbath	Caleb Sturgis	Davante Adams

Experts assess the mock draft's best, worst picks

Josh Gordon

1 With the Cleveland wide-out reportedly facing a lengthy suspension, Gordon was a runaway winner for Reach of the Draft. **Clay:** We knew on draft night that Gordon was staring at a long-term suspension. So I can't get behind taking him in the fifth round.

Enright: His suspension is imminent. Even if it's only for half the season, taking him in the fifth was a bit puzzling. **Hale:** Fantasy football is all about taking calculated risks and I am not afraid to stray off the beaten path. I am hoping that he does not receive a season-long suspension. By the fifth round there were only a few top-20 wide receivers left and my thought was to roll the dice on last year's top fantasy receiver.

Robert Griffin III and Matt Ryan

2 David Dodds achieved the impressive double dip of landing two quarterbacks mentioned by multiple

experts as the Steals of the Draft. **Hale:** Robert Griffin III (eighth round) and Matt Ryan (ninth round) were incredible values and potential top-10 quarterbacks. **Liss:** I was 50/50 between RG3 and Nick Foles in round 7, taking Foles because this is a no-transaction league, so you're screwed if there's an injury. RG3 has No. 1 overall quarterback upside. **Dodds:** I am a big fan of a healthy RG3. Washington added major weapons this offseason and their defense is still among the league's worst. If he stays healthy, he is going to put up monster numbers.

Tom Brady

3 The New England signal-caller was mentioned by several as a steal. **Dodds:** Brady at the end of the ninth round won't happen in many drafts. With the number of offensive plays the Patriots will run, that should result in outstanding value. **Enright:** I always wait on

quarterbacks and even though Brady isn't a top-3 quarterback anymore, getting him as the 14th quarterback is terrific. Fact is, some guys had two quarterbacks before I had one, and I still got my hands on Brady.

Cam Newton

4 Proving how much drafting is a matter of opinion, Newton managed to get mentioned as both the Steal and the Reach of the Draft. **Maloney:** Newton in the middle of the seventh round, even with sketchy wide receivers, seems like a minor steal to me. **Bonini:** I struggle to follow the logic in drafting a left tackleless, wide receiver-starved Cam Newton over Philip Rivers, Nick Foles, Matt Ryan and even Tom Brady. **Pianowski:** Reach is Cam Newton. Such a deep position and his wide receivers stink.

Ryan Mathews

5 Mathews had a breakout season last year, but fell

= QB
 = RB
 = WR
 = TE
 = Kicker
 = Defense

Team 6 Michael Nazarek Fantasy Football Mastermind	Team 7 Alan Satterlee Fantasy Football Warehouse	Team 8 Christopher Liss RotoWire.com	Team 9 Mark Maloney Super League Qualifier	Team 10 Micah James FFMagicMan.com	Team 11 Cory Bonini KFFL.com	Team 12 Bill Enright FF Champs
Calvin Johnson	Eddie Lacy	Demaryius Thomas	Peyton Manning	Dez Bryant	LeVeon Bell	Montee Ball
DeMarco Murray	Alshon Jeffery	Alfred Morris	Julio Jones	Jimmy Graham	A.J. Green	Doug Martin
Ryan Mathews 5	Julius Thomas	C.J. Spiller	Reggie Bush 6	Vincent Jackson	Larry Fitzgerald	Pierre Garcon
Wes Welker	Bishop Sankey	Andre Johnson	Rob Gronkowski	Michael Crabtree	Andrew Luck	Victor Cruz
Roddy White	Cordarrelle Patterson	Michael Floyd	Ben Tate	Ray Rice	Steven Jackson	Frank Gore
Joiqee Bell 6	Trent Richardson	Jordan Cameron	Eric Decker	Cecil Shorts	Stevan Ridley	Emanuel Sanders
Jason Witten	Cam Newton 4	Nick Foles	Anquan Boldin	Maurice Jones-Drew 7	Vernon Davis	Terrance Williams
Greg Olsen	Colin Kaepernick	Sammy Watkins	Fred Jackson	Darren McFadden	Dwayne Bowe	Jordan Reed
Tony Romo	Mike Evans	Russell Wilson	Steve Smith	Bernard Pierce	Hakeem Nicks	Tom Brady 3
Marvin Jones	Zach Ertz	David Wilson	Seattle 10	Tre Mason	LeGarrette Blount	DeAndre Hopkins
Eli Manning	Kelvin Benjamin	Mark Ingram	Brandin Cooks	Carlos Hyde	Ryan Tannehill	Khiry Robinson
Chris Ivory	Devonta Freeman	Johnny Manziel	Alex Smith	Sam Bradford	Justin Hunter	Kenny Stills
Doug Baldwin	Ladarius Green	Dwayne Allen	BenJarvus Green-Ellis	Allen Robinson	Antonio Gates	Eric Ebron
Lance Dunbar	Bryce Brown	Markus Wheaton	Owen Daniels	Josh McCown	KaDeem Carey	Joe Flacco
Odell Beckham	EJ Manuel	C.J. Anderson	Teddy Bridgewater	Shonn Greene	Rod Streater	Kendall Hunter
Carolina	Marqise Lee	Houston	Jerricho Cotchery	Adrien Robinson	St. Louis	Denarius Moore
Stephen Gostkowski	Justin Tucker	Buffalo	James Starks	Jordan Matthews	Robert Woods	Stepfan Taylor
Jonathan Stewart	Brandon LaFell	Phil Dawson	Steven Hauschka	Martavis Bryant	Chicago	New York Giants
New York Jets	Nick Novak	Timothy Wright	Jerick McKinnon	Mike Glennon	Miles Austin	Alex Henery
Matt Bryant	Andrew Hawkins	Robbie Gould	Adam Vinatieri	Green Bay	Nate Freese	Baltimore
Ryan Williams	Detroit	Chris Givens	Dallas	Mike Nugent	Lache Seastrunk	Graham Gano
Dexter McCluster	Miami	Jermaine Kearse	Andrew Quarless	Connor Barth	Sebastian Janikowski	Kenny Britt

to pick 3.06. Some viewed that as a steal, while the guy who drafted him was happy – but wished he'd insured the pick.

Maloney: I think Mathews in the middle of the third could be a steal. I don't think last year was a fluke. I'm surprised he was available there given the dearth of sure-thing running backs.

Nazarek: Mathews was terrific (and healthy) last year, but I'd like to hedge against it this time around. I wish I would have paid the sticker for Donald Brown, who I just missed out on in round 14.

Reggie Bush/Joiqee Bell

6 The Lions gave Bell a sizable contract in the offseason, and his play last year combined with Bush's injury history suggest similar 2014 numbers – though Maloney, to his own regret, selected Bush more than three rounds earlier. **Clay:** I think Reggie Bush takes a step back in Detroit this season, so I didn't like him at 33rd overall. **Nazarek:** I had Bush ranked about 5 slots higher than

Bell, but there is more value in waiting and taking Bell as a 3rd RB. I see them nearly even, both catching plenty of passes. And if Bush gets hurt, then Bell will blow up in games where he handles all of the workload. **Maloney:** In retrospect, Reggie Bush in a straight job share doesn't look too smart for your first RB pick.

Maurice Jones-Drew/Darren McFadden

7 Oakland's top two backs were mentioned in both steal and reach categories. The guy who drafted them was just pleased he had both. **Satterlee:** I like Maurice Jones-Drew for a bounce-back season. He ran hard last year and his stats in terms of yards after contact were actually strong despite the rough season. MJD has trimmed down and he actually is playing with a ton more talent around him in Oakland than he has had in Jacksonville. Darren McFadden, however, was a bad pick – he is the kiss of death in fantasy football, even in the eighth round.

James: I loved getting Jones-Drew and McFadden at the 7/8 turn, especially given that I only had Rice at that point. With both players, and given the format, I'm not worried if (when) DMC gets hurt, or which of those two is the workhorse in any given week.

Brandon Marshall

8 Marshall has been Chicago's No. 1 receiver the past few years, so his selection as the 8th wide receiver, after Alshon Jeffery, was viewed by many as a steal. **Nazarek:** Seeing Marshall go almost at the end of round 2 is great value. If Jay Cutler stays healthy, he will be a top-5 wide receiver for sure, one with top-3 potential. **Clay:** Marshall at 23rd overall is robbery. I wanted Gio Bernard with that pick (he went one pick later, of course), but Marshall was simply too good a value to pass up. Jeffery certainly has a shot to take over as Chicago's No. 1 wideout, but I don't think it's going to happen.

Brian Hartline

9 There's nothing exciting about Brian Hartline, but he's gone over 1,000 yards in back to back seasons and his late selection made some experts envious. **Bonini:** I am a fan of David Dodds' Hartline pick in round 15 – solid value for Ryan Tannehill's favorite wideout, in an offense that is opening up, no less. **Pianowski:** Brian Hartline is boring but reliable, the perfect name for the 15th round of a deeper draft. Well played, David Dodds.

Seattle Defense

10 Nobody had anything good to say about Mark Maloney's 10th-round selection of the Seattle defense. Not even Maloney. **James:** The scoring format in this league gave no advantage to a stingy defense like that of the Seahawks, and I believe they would have been there two or three rounds later. **Maloney:** It appears that I was "that guy" by jumping the gun and drafting a defense in the 10th round of a 22-round draft.

Fantasy Football Index Mock Draft

Experts discuss strategy, sleepers, and missed opportunities

► Cory Bonini, KFFL.com

Discuss your outlook for rookie runners KaDeem Carey and Lache Seastrunk.

Steven Jackson and Stevan Ridley are anything but safe picks. I needed to assume some smart risk. Matt Forte is entering his age-29 season and had 363 touches last year. Carey is a better talent than Michael Ford, and history has proven that no matter how much the Bears beautify their passing game, Soldier Field still caters to pounding the rock. I am a huge supporter of Seastrunk, but I am also a realist. He has to prove he can catch the ball out of the backfield to have a meaningful role in this offense. Carey is a sleeper, Seastrunk a total flier.

What are your expectations for Hakeem Nicks in Indianapolis?

He cannot possibly be worse than he was last year, right? Nicks is always an injury concern, but I learned something last year, and that is you cannot have enough good receivers. Andrew Luck makes players around him better, but he needs help to take his career to the next level. A change of scenery should do Nicks wonders. Keep in mind, he is only 26 years old, even if it seems like he has been in the league for a decade.

► Mike Clay, Pro Football Focus

While many teams went running back heavy, you drafted three WRs in the first four rounds.

This wasn't intentional. I was eyeing the best values and, frankly, I would've preferred a second running back earlier had it made sense to grab one. I was also hoping Rob Gronkowski would fall to me in the fourth, but he never made it that far.

Any concerns about running back depth, with some committee guys or uncertain roles?

This is definitely a weak spot out of the gate, but there are always a ton of running backs who go undrafted and end up in starting lineups due to injury or ineffective play. I'll need a bench loaded with upside handcuffs like Christine Michael, who I snagged in the 13th round.

► David Dodds, Footballguys.com

Only 1 tight end in the first 18 rounds. Is this a position you don't place a priority on?

In non-PPR, only the top tight ends carry much value. I was hoping to draft Witten, Davis, Olsen, Pitta, or Reed at the 8/9 turn. Once these guys were off the board, I wanted either Bennett or Clay in the 10th. Based on past Fantasy Index drafts, I knew about 27 total tight ends would be selected. So when most everyone got their backups in round 13, I felt the better alternative was to grab two more much later. Only 9 more tight ends would be drafted from rounds 14 through 22. I landed Fleener and Toilolo in the 19th and 20th rounds, and they have the potential to smash their draft positions.

► David Dorey, The Huddle

Most of your picks favored established veterans. Coincidence or strategy?

I prefer the consistency of veterans – particularly with receivers and quarterbacks. It worked out that I had few rookies because others were overvaluing them.

You chose just six wide receivers, and some of them were hurt most of last year.

In the best ball format, I like to get established veterans. Randall Cobb, Jeremy Maclin and James Jones were injured in 2013, but that makes them undervalued, since most draft like it was the previous season.

► Bill Enright, Fantasy Football Champs

Any concerns at tight end with just Jordan Reed and a rookie at the position?

I know Reed had concussion issues last year, but I also know his talent level puts his potential through the roof. If he stays healthy, Reed will finish in the top 5. As for Ebron, forget the off the field prima donna rumors. Once the pads are on he'll be productive. The Lions should finish top 3 in scoring, and Ebron should be a major piece in that production.

You're also counting on some unproven backs and receivers: Montee Ball, Terrance Williams, and Khiry Robinson and Kenny Stills in New Orleans.

We saw what Knowshon Moreno did last year with defenses focusing

on Peyton Manning. Beefed-up O-Line, Moreno's departure, gives Ball an excellent opportunity in the league's best offense. Miles Austin is gone so Williams becomes the No. 2, and the format allows my team to take advantage of his big games while not worrying about his misses. Robinson made a lot of noise in the Saints backfield in the playoffs and I'm certain Sean Payton would rather utilize Robinson over Mark Ingram. With Stills, Lance Moore is gone, and Stills proved enough as a rookie that he can take on the No. 2 role.

► L'roy Anthony Hale, Fantasy First

You selected a pair of rookie runners, Terrance West and Andre Williams.

The Browns and Giants both signed free agents to be their lead backs in 2014 (Ben Tate and Rashad Jennings). Both players have never been "The Man" in their careers and both have been prone to injuries. Each team used relatively high selections on rookie running backs (West in the third round and Williams in the fourth), which tells me they are not sold on the veterans. I believe both West and Williams will get significant playing time and could ultimately steal the starting position away from the veterans.

► Micah James, FFMagicMan.com

You took your first running back in the fifth round, and he (Ray Rice) is facing a likely suspension.

I considered running back at 4.03, but there were about six guys I would have been OK with as my RB1; with so many taken in rounds 1 and 2, I felt pretty good about having one of them get back to me in the fifth. Of course this ground-loving group drafted seven more backs before I came up in round 5 at which point Rice was one of the few remaining that has a solid handle on a starting gig. I'm not concerned about a long suspension (think it will be 1-2 games) and I made sure to grab Bernard Pierce; I'm fine with that tandem.

Why did you draft only one defense?

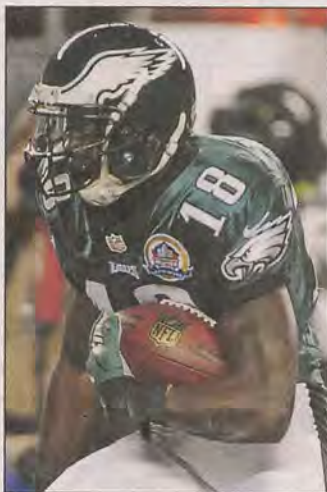
If we had a deeper bench I would have taken a second defense, but given the scoring system I felt like it was more important to build more depth at wide receiver. I love my first four wideouts, but then I had to spend so many picks chasing running back production that I decided to sacrifice one bye week for the chance that Matthews or Bryant will take significant roles.

► Christopher Liss, RotoWire.com

You made Houston the 3rd defense drafted. Discuss your outlook for them.

Defense is so random, but I'm buying into the pairing of Jadeveon Clowney and J.J. Watt, four games against Jacksonville/Tennessee and a last-place schedule.

What do you expect from Sammy Watkins in Buffalo this season?



Jeremy Maclin was injured in 2013. Is he undervalued in 2014 – or just an injury risk?

ERIC HARTLINE/USA TODAY SPORTS

He should see 100-plus targets at a minimum, and he'll get 7.5 yards-per-target if EJ Manuel is remotely competent. So 750 yards and 5 TDs is his healthy floor. His ceiling might be what Keenan Allen did last year.

► **Mark Maloney, Fantasy Index Super League Qualifier**
Do you expect Peyton Manning to approach his 2013 numbers again this season?

I think last year was an example of everything falling into place. I don't think 5,400 yards and 55 TDs is beatable this year, but 5,000 and 45 is.

Discuss your outlook for three players: Reggie Bush, Rob Gronkowski, and Brandin Cooks.

With Bush they're saying straight job share in a more balanced offense. I still like them to score a lot of points and he's money when he's on the field. Gronkowski might miss a game or two at the start, and who knows with the next inevitable injury, but he's a monster when healthy. Cooks has the skills and speed. A lot of mouths to feed, but if Brees is going for 5,200 and 40, Cook's gonna eat.

► **Michael Nazarek, Fantasy Football Mastermind**
Looks like you focused on proven veterans at most positions.

I tried to get the most value from proven producers, leading me to take a guy coming off an injury like Roddy White rather than younger guys who are more inconsistent like Hilton.

► **Scott Pianowski, Yahoo! Sports**
Any concerns at running back, where Forte and Ellington might be it for starters? I'm confident Pierre Thomas will have his share of big games, and I



Circumstances may be ripe for Trent Richardson to shake his status as an NFL draft bust.

don't have to guess when they'll arrive. Ellington also fits this theme: I'm chasing an explosive upside, and I'm not worried about the heavy variance he brings to the table. What I lack in backfield star power I hopefully cover through depth, picking six running backs in all. If I don't address a position early, I'll be all over it with volume later on.

► **Alan Satterlee, Fantasy Football Warehouse**

Your draft skews young – three of your top 5 wideouts and two of your top 4 running backs are rookies. Discuss your outlook for these players.

I have nailed rookies here for several years. Rookies are coming into the NFL more ready to play as more colleges are running NFL pro systems. The key is not reaching for rookies and scoring them at value. Kelvin Benjamin should be the Panthers' No. 1 receiver. Mike Evans is going to feast on No. 2 defensive backs opposite Vincent Jackson. At running back, Sankey is a fine gamble in the 4th round; Shonn Greene isn't the answer. I thought Devonta Freeman was a steal in the 12th round. I don't think Steven Jackson can make it through the season, and even if he does he isn't about to get 300 carries.

I take it you still believe in Trent Richardson (sixth round)?

I certainly am not willing to invest a high pick on Richardson, but he is the former 3rd overall pick in the draft, he plays on a high-octane offense, his competition is pretty minimal, and he will have had a year and a training camp to get used to the Colts' offense and settle down some.

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Fantasy Football Index Mock Draft

Who was the steal of the draft?

Bonini: Mike Clay's 16th-round selection of Matt Schaub had me a bit envious. I couldn't find the roster space for one of my favorite rebound candidates.

Clay: Micah could've gone the safe route and grabbed Jimmy Graham with the 10th overall pick, but he was fortunate enough to get Dez Bryant there and have Graham fall to him at 15th overall. That's a nice find. I also liked DeMarco Murray at 19th overall and Kendall Wright 72nd.

Dorey: Both Brees and Rodgers went to start the third round - incredible values in this scoring format.

Enright: Love the pick of Chris Johnson at the start of the fourth round. The Jets will run and run and run some more and I think Johnson will have plenty of opportunities to bust some big runs.

James: Getting Kelvin Benjamin as the 50th wide receiver selected is incredible value. I don't normally love rookie wideouts, but given the Panthers' dearth at the position and Benjamin's measurables, I believe he is going to be a huge part of their red zone offense.

were a little higher than I expected, but not enough to be classified as a reaches. Everyone did a great job of making sound selections.

James: Toss-up between Josh Gordon in round 5 (an expensive price even if he only ends up with an 8-game vacation) and Seattle's defense in round 10.

Liss: I don't like LeVeon Bell in round 1 in a non-PPR. Poor efficiency, slow runner, team that hasn't had a dominant run game in a long time. Don't like Antonio Brown at 3.01 in non-PPR.

Maloney: Josh Gordon might not play at all. And will he contribute if and when he does? Wes Welker with the minimal upside was a reach ahead of T.Y. Hilton, Michael Floyd, Percy Harvin and Cordarrelle Patterson.

Nazarek: Jordy Nelson in round 2 before Marshall is a big mistake in my book, especially with a healthy Randall Cobb on the team. Keenan Allen in the early part of the third round is too high. I just don't see him improving. I think he may regress a bit, as corners learn his route-running abilities.

Pianowski: The price wasn't silly but I don't want to gamble on Eric Decker in New York (my Vick pick was partially driven by rushing po-



Josh Gordon:
Reach



Cam Newton:
Steal and reach



Dez Bryant:
Steal and reach



Sammy Watkins:
Steal and regret



Robert Griffin III:
Steal

Liss: I liked RG3 in round 8 to Dodds. I also liked his pick of Matt Ryan in round 9 and Charles Clay in round 11.

Maloney: Percy Harvin in the sixth looks savvy.

Pianowski: I'm a believer in Marvin Jones (though he wasn't cheap), Greg Olsen (what else is left in Carolina?) and the Rams defense (follow the sacks).

Satterlee: Sammy Watkins will be instantly busy and I wanted him in the eighth round. Watkins is a well-rounded receiver but also can do major damage by just getting him the ball on bubble-screens (more than 50 percent of Watkins' catches were off of screens in college).

Who was the reach of the draft?

Bonini: Johnny Manziel in Round 12 was really early. I argue against the selection placement, but not the player. He is a worthwhile gamble in this best-ball format. I also think Jeremy Hill (round 10) is a tad too soon. I'll be surprised if BenJarvus Green-Ellis is released before the season begins.

Clay: I thought a majority of the owners put too much of an emphasis on the quarterback position. There were 20 off the board through 11 rounds, which was when I took my first (Ben Roethlisberger). I'll take that all day long, especially when Andrew Luck went in the fourth.

Dodds: Josh Gordon in the fifth round (where roster spots are so important in this format) was a major reach in my opinion.

Dorey: There were 14 running backs and 14 wideouts taken over the first three rounds - far too many receivers with no reception points.

Hale: Dez Bryant in the first round and Michael Crabtree in the fourth

tential). A big paycheck is nice, but good luck making things work with these scattershot arms.

Satterlee: I have zero confidence in Stevan Ridley as he is a fumble waiting to happen and adds no additional yardage in the receiving game. Ridley dropped to 178 carries last year and I will take the under this season.

What was your favorite pick?

Bonini: Miles Austin in round 19. He won't be anything special, but to have Cleveland's possible No. 1 wideout available to me that late ... there is zero risk and nothing but upside.

Dodds: I drafted RG3 with the last pick of the eighth round. With the weapons Washington added this offseason, I expect this pick will provide huge dividends all season.

Dorey: Getting the 4.08 pick of Matt Stafford gave me a QB who will compete for top fantasy points two or three rounds later than Manning, Brees and Rodgers.

Enright: Given the best-ball format and Denver's prolific passing attack, I think Emmanuel Sanders was a quality pick in the sixth. Eric Decker's absence and Peyton Manning's domination will contribute to Sanders having career stats across the board.

Hale: Tie between LeSean McCoy and Drew Brees. I have McCoy rated as the No. 1 overall player and he dropped to me with the 3rd selection. I have Brees rated as the No. 1 quarterback and was able to get him in the third round.

James: Might be hard to believe, but handcuffing Ray Rice with

Bernard Pierce made me very happy, especially with the way running backs were being drafted in this league (27 out of the first 60 picks were running backs).

Liss: I really like Michael Floyd in round 5. I think he's a can't-miss star given his off-the-charts combination of size and speed. I would take him over Larry Fitzgerald straight up.

Maloney: I like Julio Jones there with the 16th pick. He's in the conversation for the No. 2 wide receiver overall with Demaryius Thomas and I like his role to keep expanding in Atlanta, especially in the red zone. I'm glad they're bringing him along slowly in camp.

Nazarek: I like Roddy White in the fifth round, great value there for my No. 3 wide receiver. If he can stay healthy, he could perform like a No. 1.

Pianowski: T.Y. Hilton runs by people every week, and he's working with an elite quarterback in Andrew Luck. I know this won't be the last time I land him.

Satterlee: Kelvin Benjamin in the 11th round. Sure he's a rookie but who else do they have in Carolina? Benjamin should be the team's No. 1 wide receiver and be an instant impact in the red zone given his 6-foot-5 size, large wingspan and great jump-ball skills.

What was your biggest regret?

Bonini: Even in round 5, it is tough to be excited with a Steven Jackson selection. He is simply too big of an injury risk. I really wanted Ray Rice, had he not been chosen one slot before me, but after sleeping on it, Jackson is the better choice because of the non-PPR scoring format.

Clay: I felt pretty dirty when I chose Shane Vereen in the fifth round. By not getting a second back earlier, I ended up weak at the position after Adrian Peterson. I think Vereen has a shot to explode into a borderline RB1 this season – and potentially lead the position in receptions – but his slow-healing hand, durability issues, and small role as a ballcarrier make him a risk.

Dorey: I missed Greg Olsen by one pick and took Dennis Pitta. He won't be a difference-maker, and I could have waited another round or two for a tight end.

Enright: I shouldn't have waited on defenses because I knew there would be a run. I really wanted the Cardinals. I think the Arizona defense will finish in the top 3 this year.

Hale: Mohamed Sanu. I got distracted and rushed to make a selection before I timed out. I wanted to and should have grabbed my second kicker in this round.

James: Jimmy Graham at 2.03. I should have selected Arian Foster or Alfred Morris given how many running backs went off the board in the first 13 picks.

Liss: Sammy Watkins in round 8 was probably a mistake, as it cost me a quality second tight end like Greg Olsen or Dennis Pitta.

Maloney: I hate my Ben Tate pick. I'm going along with the Browns wanting to run, but it's not clear that Tate's the main guy. And I didn't back him up with Terrance West.

Nazarek: I wanted to pair a bit of a more solid choice behind Tony Romo, but the backups I wanted went just before my pick of Eli Manning. That said, his schedule leads me to believe he will rebound in 2014.

Pianowski: The Michael Vick selection will look rather silly if he doesn't start the majority of the games in New York. I didn't get the backups I wanted at quarterback, though I hope the presence of Aaron Rodgers makes it irrelevant.

Satterlee: Andrew Hawkins in the 20th round, mainly because I wanted the Pittsburgh defense and they got picked on me before it came back around. I could have probably added Hawkins anyway in the 21st. I do think Hawkins will be busy, actually, and the Browns gave him a somewhat surprising \$13.6 million deal.

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Fantasy Football Index Mock Auction

Auctions aren't as popular as drafts, but they offer more opportunities for strategy and diversity, and enable you to have any player you want – as long as you budget accordingly. That's not true of a draft, where the owner selecting 12th has no chance of drafting Jamaal Charles or Adrian Peterson.

Back in May, we assembled 12 fantasy experts – 11 professionals, and a qualifier from our annual Super League competition – at ESPN.com. Each owner was given a \$200 budget to assemble a roster of 22 players. Starting lineups consists of 2 running backs, 3 wide receivers, and one each at quarterback, tight end, kicker and defense.

We play this league out over the course of the season, but slightly differently than most leagues. No waiver moves or starting lineups – scores are determined on a best-ball basis, with each team's lineup determined automatically. And to reduce the luck element, we're not using a head-to-head schedule. Instead each team plays every team every week (so each week, each team finishes with a win-loss record between 11-0 and 0-11).

Scoring is standard for field players – there's no PPR. Defenses (which include special teams) get points for sacks (1), takeaways (2) and touchdowns (6). We tabulate the results all season long at the website, and determine a champion after Week 16.

Our own Ian Allan has won the league the last two years, but with completely different approaches. Two years ago, he had the highest paid quarterback and the highest paid running back. For 2013, he went with a balanced roster of lower priced guys, with his best values being Andy Dalton, Antonio Brown and Eric Decker, Scott Sachs was a close 2nd, with three superstars on his team – Drew Brees, Josh Gordon and Jimmy Graham.

A post-draft poll indicates there was no knockout winner at this auction. Asked to identify the likely winner, the coaches came up with nine different teams, and five of those received multiple votes. We'll post standings updates throughout the season and crown the winner at the end of Week 16 at fantasyindex.com.

Ian Allan Fantasy Football Index		Bryan Hough Fantasy Titan 101		Scott Pianowski Yahoo! Sports		David Dodds Footballguys.com		Tim Heaney KFFL	
Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid
QB									
Drew Brees.....	26	Cam Newton.....	15	Andy Dalton.....	9	Alex Smith.....	7	Philip Rivers.....	8
Nick Foles.....	12	Robert Griffin III.....	14	Eli Manning.....	5	Joe Flacco.....	2	Ben Roethlisberger..	7
.....		Sam Bradford.....	4	Michael Vick.....	2	.....		Josh McCown.....	3
.....		.....		Ryan Fitzpatrick.....	1	.....		.....	
RB									
Knowshon Moreno..	17	Zac Stacy.....	3	Alfred Morris.....	32	Arian Foster.....	34	Ryan Mathews.....	22
Ray Rice.....	16	Rashad Jennings....	18	DeMarco Murray....	32	Giovani Bernard....	29	Bishop Sankey.....	21
Chris Johnson.....	16	Trent Richardson....	16	Fred Jackson.....	7	Reggie Bush.....	18	Toby Gerhart.....	21
Bernard Pierce.....	6	Jeremy Hill.....	4	Darren Sproles.....	6	Frank Gore.....	15	Darren McFadden....	7
Lamar Miller.....	3	Andre Williams.....	2	David Wilson.....	3	Maurice Jones-Drew	9	Khiry Robinson.....	4
Brandon Bolden.....	2	Ahmad Bradshaw.....	1	.....		.....		LeGarrette Blount....	4
Jonathan Dwyer.....	1	C.J. Anderson.....	1	.....		.....		Andre Brown.....	1
WR									
Randall Cobb.....	23	Victor Cruz.....	21	Brandon Marshall..	32	Pierre Garcon.....	17	Jordy Nelson.....	32
Andre Johnson.....	21	Michael Crabtree....	14	Antonio Brown.....	31	Dwayne Bowe.....	9	Larry Fitzgerald.....	18
Roddy White.....	15	Jeremy Maclin.....	12	Cord. Patterson....	14	Tavon Austin.....	8	Mike Wallace.....	9
Julian Edelman.....	12	Sammy Watkins.....	7	Rueben Randle.....	4	Marvin Jones.....	7	Riley Cooper.....	9
Brandin Cooks.....	7	Jarrett Boykin.....	4	Rod Streater.....	3	Reggie Wayne.....	6	Hakeem Nicks.....	8
DeAndre Hopkins....	5	Kelvin Benjamin.....	1	Doug Baldwin.....	2	James Jones.....	5	Mike Evans.....	6
.....		.....		Brandon LaFell.....	1	Anquan Boldin.....	4	.....	
TE									
Kyle Rudolph.....	7	Julius Thomas.....	22	Greg Olsen.....	8	Jason Witten.....	9	Dennis Pitta.....	7
Jared Cook.....	2	Jordan Reed.....	8	Dwayne Allen.....	2	Charles Clay.....	5	Zach Ertz.....	6
Coby Fleener.....	2	.....		.....		Martellus Bennett..	5	.....	
PK									
Stephen Gostkowski	3	Shaun Suisham.....	1	Dan Bailey.....	2	Matt Prater.....	2	Nick Novak.....	2
Mason Crosby.....	1	Mike Nugent.....	1	Phil Dawson.....	2	Adam Vinatieri.....	1	Nate Freese.....	1
Def									
Denver.....	2	Philadelphia.....	1	Cleveland.....	1	San Francisco.....	4	Kansas City.....	2
Buffalo.....	1	Miami.....	1	Tampa Bay.....	1	Cincinnati.....	2	Houston.....	2
.....		.....		.....		Carolina.....	2	.....	

Prices for top-shelf running backs fall yet again

Matt Ryan (\$13)

1 Ryan had a poor 2013 season, but many experts foresee a rebound. More than half mentioned him in our post-mortem, enough to classify him as the Steal of the Auction. **Heaney:** I debated going \$14 for Matt Ryan. He'll trump Cam Newton (\$15) and perhaps Matthew Stafford (\$18). **Sachs:** Grand larceny for both Ryan and Tom Brady (\$11), plus they went to the same team, which follows my "having two premium quarterbacks" philosophy. **Hendricks:** I am much higher on Ryan than most, as I expect a return to 2012 form with offensive line upgrades for the Falcons.

Elite Running Backs

2 Prices for top running backs in our annual auction have declined over the years. Those backs went in the \$60-\$80 range from 2005-2009, but \$46-\$53 in the five years since. And this year

some of the owners who paid even those prices regretted it. **Charchian:** My biggest regret, and it's not close, is LeSean McCoy (\$51). I never spend huge money on running backs, and yet somehow, alien forces took over my mousing hand, and I clicked the final bid. From that pivotal early moment forward, my original strategy was annihilated, and I was stuck scavenging for value the entire rest of the auction. **Hendricks:** Hard to believe but my biggest regret is Jamaal Charles (\$45). When I bought him I thought I had value. But after scoring Bell and Martin for a combined \$62, I found myself with one running back too many and Charles was the most expensive.

Zac Stacy (\$32)

3 Stacy was a breakout rookie, but some are wary about his price because St. Louis selected Tre Mason in the third round. **Heaney:** I'm not cer-

Sam Hendricks Extra Point Press		L'roy Anthony Hale Fantasy First		Lenny Pappano Draft Sharks		Paul Charchian LeagueSafe		Bruce Boase Super League Qualifier		Alex Miglio Bleacher Report		Scott Sachs Perfect Season Fantasy Football	
Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid	Player	Paid
Matt Ryan.....1	13	Matthew Stafford.....18		Tony Romo.....10		Geno Smith.....1		Peyton Manning.....34		Colin Kaepernick.....14		Aaron Rodgers.....26	
Tom Brady.....11		Jay Cutler.....12		Carson Palmer.....5		Matt Cassel.....1		Russell Wilson.....9		Ryan Tannehill.....6		Andrew Luck.....18	
EJ Manuel.....2		Brian Hoyer.....1		Teddy Bridgewater.....1		Jimmy Garoppolo.....1		Matt Schaub.....1		Jake Locker.....3		Johnny Manziel.....5	
												Derek Carr.....1	
Jamaal Charles.....45		Andre Ellington.....22		Matt Forte.....43		LeSean McCoy.....51		Eddie Lacy.....47		Adrian Peterson.....49		Marshawn Lynch.....39	
Doug Martin.....34		Ben Tate.....20		C.J. Spiller.....21		Montee Ball.....39		Shane Vereen.....14		DeAngelo Williams.....8		Christine Michael.....3	
LeVeon Bell.....30		Stevan Ridley.....14		Joiqee Bell.....16		Pierre Thomas.....9		Bryce Brown.....3		Chris Ivory.....4		Knile Davis.....3	
Shonn Greene.....4		Devonta Freeman.....6		Steven Jackson.....9		Carlos Hyde.....4		Donald Brown.....3		Mark Ingram.....3		Jonathan Stewart.....3	
Danny Woodhead.....3		Terrance West.....5		KaDeem Carey.....3		Chris Polk.....2		Roy Helu.....2		BenJ. Green-Ellis.....3		Dri Archer.....1	
		Tre Mason.....5		Dexter McCluster.....1		Charles Sims.....1		Bilal Powell.....1		Matt Asiata.....1		Robert Turbin.....1	
								James Starks.....1					
Kendall Wright.....12		Michael Floyd.....22		Demaryius Thomas.....36		Dez Bryant.....36		Julio Jones.....30		Calvin Johnson.....42		A.J. Green.....35	
Marques Colston.....10		Vincent Jackson.....20		DeSean Jackson.....17		Alshon Jeffery.....29		Torrey Smith.....14		Percy Harvin.....16		Steve Smith.....5	
Eric Decker.....9		Keenan Allen.....18		Terrance Williams.....11		Wes Welker.....16		Golden Tate.....11		T.Y. Hilton.....16		Jerricho Cotchery.....3	
Markus Wheaton.....6		Danny Amendola.....6		Kenny Stills.....6		Denarius Moore.....1		Emmanuel Sanders.....9		Cecil Shorts III.....7		Aaron Dobson.....3	
Josh Gordon.....3		Harry Douglas.....3		Odell Beckham.....2		Mike Williams.....1		Stevie Johnson.....2		Greg Jennings.....6		Eddie Royal.....1	
Brian Hartline.....3		Andre Roberts.....1		Jordan Matthews.....1		Marlon Brown.....1		Nate Washington.....1		Justin Hunter.....2			
Nate Burleson.....1		Kenny Britt.....1											
Ladarius Green.....4		Rob Gronkowski.....15		Jordan Cameron.....10		Jermichael Finley.....1		Heath Miller.....4		Vernon Davis.....10		Jimmy Graham.....35	
Tyler Eifert.....4		Mercedes Lewis.....1		Delanie Walker.....3		A. Seferian-Jenkins.....1		Eric Ebron.....3		Andrew Quarless.....2		Antonio Gates.....3	
Garrett Graham.....1				Travis Kelce.....1		Owen Daniels.....1				Jermaine Gresham.....2		Jace Amaro.....1	
Blair Walsh.....2		Greg Zuerlein.....2		Robbie Gould.....1		Ryan Succop.....1		Steven Hauschka.....3		Alex Henery.....1		Justin Tucker.....2	
Seb. Janikowski.....1		Shayne Graham.....2		Dan Carpenter.....1		Graham Gano.....1		Nick Folk.....1		Caleb Sturgis.....1		Matt Bryant.....1	
Pittsburgh.....1		St. Louis.....4		N.Y. Jets.....1		Minnesota.....1		Baltimore.....2		New England.....2		Seattle.....5	
N.Y. Giants.....1		Arizona.....2		San Diego.....1		Indianapolis.....1		New Orleans.....2		Green Bay.....1		Chicago.....1	

QB

RB

WR

TE

PK

Def

Even owners of McCoy and Charles fret about overspending

tain I would've gone \$32 on Stacy. Mason will be a legit threat this year, and although the overall running game should improve by leaps and bounds, it'll be messier than most think.

Pappano: Stacy could live up to that price, but we weren't interested in going anywhere near that level. The team drafted Mason two rounds earlier than it picked Stacy last April, and we expect him to become a factor in that running game soon. **Hough:** Stacy will build on what was an average offense last year. With an improved offensive line and better play from Sam Bradford, the 2014 season bodes well for Stacy.

Bishop Sankey (\$21)

4 The price tag for the first rookie running back selected in the NFL draft gave some experts pause. **Hendricks:** Sankey was over-

priced. I priced him at \$10 as the 33rd running back. Shonn Greene may be the starter this year after Chris Johnson's departure; it is simply too early to tell. And even if Sankey is the starter, Greene will take away some goal-line carries. Rookies tend to under-deliver, not over-deliver in their first year. **Heaney:** Obviously, any rookie is going to be a risk, but his skillset running behind this Tennessee offensive line that adds Taylor Lewan sets him up for immediate success. He only has to deal with Shonn Greene. Please.

Michael Floyd (\$22)

5 Floyd comes off a big year for Arizona, but some aren't ready to see him as either a star or the best receiver on his own team.

Dodds: Michael Floyd for \$22 seemed particularly bad to me. I had his value at \$14.50.

Heaney: I was happy to land Larry Fitzgerald at \$18, especially when Floyd went for \$22 not long afterward. **Hale:** Arizona's offense in general will be much better in the second year of Bruce Arians' system.

Jimmy Graham (\$35)

6 Nobody liked Graham's high price tag very much – not even the owner who bought him. **Miglio:** I love Graham, and having a guy who severely outscores most others at his position is valuable. But he was \$13 more expensive than the next guy – Julius Thomas – and there were a ton of great values at tight end in general. **Pianowski:** As wonderful as Graham is, I don't view him as a first-round pick (which \$35 basically equates to). **Sachs:** I definitely should have resisted temptation and passed on Graham, and then

Fantasy Football Index Mock Auction

bought Gronk or Julius Thomas instead. Then I could have also had a guy like Welker and another decent running back.

Vernon Davis (\$10)

7 San Francisco has a sizable receiving corps right now, but Davis' role is secure enough that many experts viewed him as a major steal. **Hough:** In standard leagues, Davis ranked 2nd among tight ends in total points last year. **Pappano:** Davis at \$10 looked good right after Jordan Cameron went for the same price. The format downplays his reception inconsistency while rewarding his perennial TD upside. **Miglio:** I was simply shocked that I nabbed him at that price. The fantasy situation might be a bit muddled in San Francisco, but Davis has the best chance to produce big numbers.



Matt Ryan's price elicited groans.



At \$21, C.J. Spiller was an envied buy.



Rob Gronkowski: Steal or zonk prize?

some with his legs, making him a good deal. Josh Gordon was a fantastic gamble for \$3. If his suspension winds up being six or eight games, Sam Hendricks got a top-5 receiver for the second half of the season for pennies on the dollar.

Pappano: Robert Griffin (\$14) is heading for a bounce-back year and could land among the top 5 quarterbacks. Kelvin Benjamin

presents terrific upside for \$1 in a Carolina offense that includes an entirely new receiver group. Ahmad Bradshaw's a nice sneaky \$1 player, too. The neck injury makes him risky, but Trent Richardson's struggles raise the ceiling. Bradshaw was Indy's best back when healthy last year.

Pianowski: Bernard Pierce for \$6 looks awfully cheap, with Ray Rice coming off a horrible season and perhaps looking at a suspension. Other enviable buys: Joe Flacco \$2 (handy in this format, a durable starter), Matt Ryan \$13 (everything can't go wrong there again), Vernon Davis \$10, C.J. Spiller \$21, Tony Romo \$10.

Sachs: Gronkowski and Julius Thomas at tight end were nice pickups that I am envious of. A potential super steal of James Starks (\$1), as he'll start if Lacy goes down for a bit.

Who was the steal of the auction?

Allan: I thought it was a great night for buying quarterbacks. Peyton Manning (\$34) went for about what he was worth, I thought, but the next 11 went for only 52-79 percent of what I considered their fair market value. For whatever reason, we all discriminate against Brian Hartline. He's gone over 1,000 two years in a row. He was the 29th receiver on my board, and I thought he was worth \$11. Sam Hendricks got him for \$3.

Boase: I think Sam Hendricks' two quarterbacks, Matt Ryan (\$13) and Tom Brady (\$11), both have potential for bounce-back years and thus end up being steals.

Charchian: In a very weak tight end class, I love Ian's choice of Kyle Rudolph (\$7). We all know how Norv Turner exploits tight ends, and Rudolph is poised for a monster year. Ian also netted Aaron Rodgers' top receiver, Randall Cobb, for a fantastic price (\$23). I believe that Terrance West will win the RB job in Cleveland, perhaps as early as opening day. If so, his \$5 price will seem laughable in retrospect. We've been waiting for Torrey Smith to finally take a step toward superstar status. To this point, it's burned his owners. But, at only \$14, I like the gamble that 2014 will finally be his breakout season.

Dodds: Everyone keeps counting out veteran Fred Jackson. At \$7 though, Scott Pianowski got away with robbery.

Hale: Nick Foles (\$12), Matt Ryan (\$13), Tom Brady (\$11) were the best values. All are likely top-10 quarterbacks that were purchased for less than \$15, which makes them steals in my book.

Heaney: Cordarrelle Patterson (\$14) went for less than what you'll be forced to spend come August. I liked Kendall Wright (\$12), too, even though it's not a seamless scoring fit for his skills. A \$3 David Wilson could pay handsomely, too.

Hendricks: Reggie Bush (\$18) and C.J. Spiller (\$21) were highway robbery. Unfortunately I was heavily invested in my own running backs and could not compete on these outstanding prospects. Steven Jackson at \$9 was Lenny Pappano's second running back steal. I also love Phillip Rivers for \$8.

Hough: Rivers at \$8. He ranked 6th among QBs in total points last year. If he produces like that again, he was definitely a steal for the price.

Miglio: Tony Romo was his usual great value at \$10, a quarterback capable of throwing for 5,000 yards and 30 touchdowns. Russell Wilson (\$9) might not be throwing for that much, but he should be scoring

How about the worst buy?

Allan: Six players I thought were worth \$1 went for at least \$6 - Ha-keem Nicks, Jordan Reed, Darren McFadden, Devonta Freeman, Ryan Tannehill and Darren Sproles.

Charchian: At \$30, Julio Jones went for nearly as much money as elite receivers who aren't coming off reconstructive knee injuries, like Brandon Marshall (\$32) and AJ Green (\$35). I'm not convinced that Doug Martin has elite upside, and his \$34 price put him in the same range as Montee Ball, and Zac Stacy, both of whom I like a lot more.

Hale: I don't think any pick can be classified as the worst buy of the auction. I believe all of the experts did very well, especially considering how early in the year we were picking our teams. Calvin Johnson sold for \$42, which is higher than I expected. But Johnson, who is considered by most the top wide receiver, is by no means a "worst buy."

Heaney: I would be scared having the busy, aging Marshawn Lynch for \$39. I also nominated injury-prone Rob Gronkowski for a reason, and for \$2 below his \$15 price here, I acquired two rising options. I would not want to commit that much to Gronk in a league where I can't adjust to any setbacks during the year.

Hendricks: Michael Floyd (\$22) and Jimmy Graham (\$35) were overpriced.

Hough: Toby Gerhart (\$21). Not too high on him to begin with and wouldn't pay over single digits for him. Also Ben Tate (\$20). He has talent, but the Browns offense may not be very good with Gordon out.

Miglio: I thought the Jimmy Garoppolo pick for \$1 was \$1 too much - even if Tom Brady gets injured, Ryan Mallett is the likely replacement in New England.

Pappano: Cam Newton at \$15 doesn't stack up as a value pick this season, considering he lost every wide receiver and his left tackle from last year's team. We expect him to slide down the rankings this year. We also have to wonder if anyone who paid more than \$2 for a defense in this auction read over the scoring settings beforehand.

Pianowski: I thought Rob Gronkowski (\$15) was overpriced, given his endless run of injuries and surgeries. Other possible overpays: Jer-

RYAN: TODD KIRKLAND/ICON SMI • SPILLER: RICH GRAESSLE/ICON SMI • GRONKOWSKI: RIC TAPIA/ICON SMI

emy Maclin \$12 (no discount after a lost year?), Matthew Stafford \$18 (the next tier below him was rather affordable).

Sachs: I usually pick Ryan Mathews (\$22) here and this year is no exception. I just feel he is overrated in general. Not sure about the cost for Bishop Sankey (\$21); I really like him, but I was surprised at the high amount he sold for.

What is your biggest regret?

Allan: It was a difficult auction, because everyone was doing a good job of being careful with their money. All the good players early were going for 90-95 percent of their retail value. No steals, and a growing fear that prices might rise later. So I panicked and bought \$25 Andre Johnson for \$21. Not a disaster, but that money could have been better utilized.

Boase: I wouldn't really say I regret it, but I probably bid a little too high for Peyton Manning (\$34).

Dodds: I did not want anyone to get the Cincinnati defense cheap. I bid \$2 thinking someone would bid \$3 to get what I believe will be a top-5 defense. I ended up securing a 3rd defense and that got in my way the rest of the auction.

Hale: Rob Gronkowski (\$15) and the St. Louis defense (\$4). When Gronk is on the field, he is one of the best, if not the best tight end in the NFL. The problem is, he is prone to injury and it is not a given he will be available to start the season. I really wanted the Rams defense, but paying \$4 for any defense is too much.

Heaney: Maybe Bishop Sankey (\$21), but that's the closest one that I'd rethink. Maybe I could've gone \$23 for Andre Ellington instead, but he has health, performance and playing-time warning signs.

Hendricks: Blair Walsh for \$2. I hate to pay more than a \$1 for a kicker, but my homer instincts took over and I could not resist the urge to take my Vikings kicker.

Hough: Rashad Jennings at \$18. We were in a bind with a lack of running back depth, so had to overpay for the starter. If he produces this year, it could be less of a sting in the wallet.

Miglio: Every running back after Adrian Peterson. I felt good about getting Peterson for \$49, then I became gun-shy for too long at the position. Fortunately, we only start two running backs, but if Peterson gets hurt I'm in for a long year at the position. I'm sad now that I look at that group of guys.

Pappano: The only pick we truly regret was drafting a second kicker with the same bye week as the first. Obvious brain fart there. Otherwise, we honestly don't dislike a single purchase on the roster.

Pianowski: Anyone can get hurt in the NFL, but with DeMarco Murray, it always feels like "when" and not "if." A \$32 outlay should get you a safer floor. And while I'm a big fan of Cordarrelle Patterson, \$14 is a vanity price. I need him to be reliable at that ticket, but he's still a kid, learning the nuances of the pro game.



DeMarco Murray's owner worries it's a matter of when - not if - the player suffers an injury.

TIM HETTMAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

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Fantasy Football Index Mock Auction

Experts discuss strategy, sleepers, and missed opportunities

► Ian Allan, Fantasy Football Index

What's your strategy behind nominating kickers and defenses early on?

I expected there would be about 19 players each at those positions who would go for \$1. So it makes sense to get those positions handled early, so you end up with players in your top 5-7, rather than paying the same amount later for a player ranked 10 spots lower.

You spent at least \$15 less on your top running back than almost every other team, and you ended up with a lot of older players (while also securing several handcuffs).

I don't go in with a pre-determined budget, where I'm spending a certain amount on each position. I'm just looking for deals. I nearly pulled the trigger on Matt Forte. I thought he was worth \$50, and Lenny Pappano got him for \$43. But it just didn't happen. Miami has a better offensive line and could be going to more of a hurry-up type system like what the Eagles used last year, so I had a feeling I'd be buying Knowshon Moreno.

► Bruce Boase, Fantasy Index Super League qualifier

You have two No. 1 running backs and a lot of backups.

I have big-time concerns at running back. I definitely should have bid higher for the New England handcuff. I bid on Ridley but got outbid.

Did you come in with a plan to get specific top players (Manning, Lacy, Jones)?

Yes, my game plan was to try and get a top-tier player at quarterback, wide receiver and running back and then build my team around them with lesser-priced guys. My plan got a little off track because I probably spent a little too much on those three players.

► Paul Charchian, LeagueSafe

Some people go cheap at quarterback. You spent \$3 on three players who conceivably may not make 16 starts between them. What happened there?

I miscalculated the cost of backup quarterbacks. I assumed that I'd be able to get third-tier starting quarterbacks for \$3-4, but those guys went for \$7-9. And even fourth-tier guys, like Ryan Tannehill and Eli Manning, went for more than I expected. This kind of unpredictability is why I love the auction, even though it bit me in the keister this year. *In part due to the cheap quarterbacks, you will probably have the best running back/wide receiver starting 5 in the league. Fair trade-off?*

I agree that I've got the best starting five players, but I've got very little depth, and I need serious help at quarterback and tight end. My only chance to win this league is for my five big horses to stay healthy and perform to expectations. Rarely do five guys do that.

You also went very cheap at TE, again with three guys who may not be No. 1s. Any concerns there?

Lots! My original auction strategy hinged on landing one of the (in my opinion) two elite tight ends, Jimmy Graham or Julius Thomas. My overzealous early spending made that impossible, and after that, I chose to conserve cash at the position, and hunt for \$1-\$2 guys. Unfortunately, I couldn't land anyone with a pulse in that price range. I'm counting on Jeremichael Finley to get healthy and re-sign with the Packers.

► David Dodds, FootballGuys.com

You've won this league multiple times and are usually pretty confident on auction night, but you expressed a lot of doubts about this team. What happened, and what's your biggest concern for the season?

I always take lesser starters at quarterback, but I am worried about having just Joe Flacco and Alex Smith at the position this year. I also don't feel I managed the end part of the auction all that well. Despite all of this, I do think I have a lot of value on my roster. If my quarterbacks can stay healthy all year, I should be in the mix.

You went particularly cheap at wide receiver, with only one player above \$9.

In this format I don't have to predict when my wide receivers will score

or catch 8 passes. I just need guys that are going to stay on the football field for the entire game. I think I achieved that with this group of wideouts.

► L'roy Anthony Hale, Fantasy First

Three rookie running backs (Freeman, West, Mason). Discuss your outlook for these unknowns.

I like all three rookies a great deal and believe all will get significant playing time and could eventually unseat the current starters. My strategy going into the draft was to grab at least one or two of them and I was ecstatic I was able to grab all three. I made a spreadsheet prior to the draft of how much I was willing to spend on each position and running backs were selling for much more than expected. This made finding bargains at running back imperative and in my opinion, that best route to go was with the rookies who could all be had for less than \$10.

Any concerns at tight end, with only two players – including Gronk coming off knee surgery?

Gronk's talent is comparable to Jimmy Graham, who sold for \$35 despite being a potential holdout. If Gronkowski misses fewer than four games, my team will be fine and he will be a great value. I think it was a worthwhile risk, but I should have gotten better depth at tight end.

What is your outlook for Andre Ellington this season?

Bruce Arians keeps talking up Ellington and saying how involved he will be in the offense this year. If what Arians is saying is true, Ellington will be a great value at \$22. Truth be told, I'm not as high on Ellington as most pundits. Ellington was only ranked 17th on my board. I have been trying to convince myself this was a good pick since the auction ended.

► Tim Heaney, KFFL.com

You've got a fairly balanced team, with lots of players in the \$5-\$10 range and only one over \$22.

I wanted to pluck values of almost and potentially elite players, spreading the wealth to create depth, which was especially vital to me in this format. This allowed me to control the board in waves.

You look like one of the few without any running back handcuffs; all seven backs on different teams.

The handcuff philosophy is overrated, especially with the decreasing number of true No. 1 backs. How many times have we seen backfield hierarchies change course throughout the season? I wasn't feeling obligated to any certain running back tree. I felt it was better to try to cast a wide net and capture as many potential breakthrough pieces as possible.

► Sam Hendricks, Extra Point Press

Were you surprised to get the Brady/Ryan duo for a combined \$24?

Very surprised. I waited on quarterback a long time, and when those two came up I think more other owners were out of money and not looking to double up at quarterback in terms of cost. I love Matty Ice this year and Brady is always a threat to explode for passing TDs. They make a great combination in a draft-and-forget league since I do not have to make any start/sit decisions.

You went very cheap at wide receiver, spending \$12 on your top player.

I waited to pull the trigger on my receivers too long. When I did start to bid I was too afraid to pay a premium on the good ones left I wanted to draft. I started off poorly with a \$3 flyer on Josh Gordon based on the assumption that if he does get his suspension reduced he could see the field for eight games. Great idea in theory, but he takes up a valuable roster spot. I should not have taken the risk since I can't drop him later. *Did you hope to handcuff, or try to handcuff, Charles, Martin or Bell, or was it not a big deal to you?*

I thought about it and planned on a \$2 handcuff for each but when Shonn Greene became available for \$4 I had to have him. I think there is a good chance he is the starting running back for the Titans. In the

end I decided to forgo a questionable handcuff and take Danny Woodhead, who everyone underestimates.

► **Bryan Hough, Fantasy Titan 101**

You purchased four rookies. What is your outlook for Hill, Williams, Watkins and Benjamin?

If Hill gets enough touches as a change-of-pace back, could pay off for us. Williams could be Jennings' backup if Wilson isn't healthy and an insurance policy if Wilson or Jennings go down or under perform. Watkins is the No. 1 wide receiver in Buffalo and could have a Keenan Allen-type year. Benjamin should be the No. 1 wide receiver in Carolina. You spent \$16 on Trent Richardson. Discuss your outlook for him.

Was hoping to spend only \$13-14, but with all of the aerial weapons at Luck's disposal, it should force the defenses to be honest and not stack the box. A full offseason to learn the offense isn't a bad thing, either.

► **Alex Miglio, Bleacher Report**

You have some questions at running back behind Adrian Peterson. Who do you expect to step up as your weekly No. 2?

One of my guys should step up and be decent-to-good most weeks. DeAngelo Williams is still the starter in Carolina, which probably means a few big weeks. I'm a bit worried that BenJarvus Green-Ellis will be replaced by rookie Jeremy Hill, but he should also give me a few nice weeks if he is still splitting time with Giovani Bernard. The Khiry Robinson hype train has been off and running for some time now in New Orleans, but I still expect Mark Ingram to play a big role in that backfield.

► **Lenny Pappano, Draft Sharks**

You have a couple of committee backs in C.J. Spiller and Joique Bell. Did you hope to get the other backs in those running games, or was it not a concern?

Not a concern at all. Spiller and Bell are both stand-alone values with top-15 potential. Spiller has already proved that he can put up a top-10

season, and we won't be surprised if Bell outscores Reggie Bush. Discuss your outlook for DeSean Jackson in Washington.

DeSean Jackson should see a similar number of targets as he would have gotten in Philly with Jeremy Maclin and Riley Cooper both back. Plus, his downfield game matches up better with Robert Griffin III than with any previous quarterback he's played with. Jay Gruden loves throwing deep. Andy Dalton threw the 2nd-most deep balls in the league last year, despite not being particularly good at it.

► **Scott Pianowski, Yahoo! Sports**

You went fairly cheap at quarterback, though not as cheap as some. How do you think you'll fare at this position?

With four players I expect to start, I should be fine. I hate to rely on Eli Manning for anything, but perhaps the offense will fix itself with Kevin Gilbride out of the way. Andy Dalton is truly the red-headed stepchild of quarterbacks, but given the weapons he's surrounded by, I see a very high floor for him.

You look thin at running back - five total, and only two clear starters. How concerned are you about your depth here?

Very concerned. It's the biggest weakness of my team, no question. I figure Alfred Morris to be worth the \$32 I dropped on him, but if DeMarco Murray doesn't play most of the season, I'm probably in trouble. It seemed like most of the lottery tickets I liked at this position were also targeted by other owners.

► **Scott Sachs, Perfect Season Fantasy Football**

Who will step up as your No. 2 running back?

Although a healthy Jonathan Stewart will probably be my steady No. 2, the running back with the most upside is Knile Davis. I can't envision Jamaal Charles staying healthy all season two years in a row, so Davis should contribute.

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Quarterbacks

NFL teams are passing more than ever before, and that changes the way quarterbacks should be handled in fantasy drafts. The floor is higher than ever before – that is, it's easier to find quarterbacks who'll throw 25-27 touchdowns. Chances are some quarterback who isn't even drafted in your league will toss 25 touchdowns.

But the ceiling has also been raised to unprecedented heights. In the last three years, eight quarterbacks have put up 40-plus combined touchdowns. That's only one fewer than the previous 20 seasons combined. And in each of the last three years, at least three quarterbacks have put up 35 touchdowns, something that had never happened before.

These big seasons aren't being put together by surprise players. Alex Smith, Joe Flacco and Ryan Tannehill aren't going to throw 37 touchdowns. Instead, it's the franchise guys that everybody agrees are the best at the position. Of the 12 seasons with 35-plus touchdowns in the last three years, 75 percent have been achieved by Drew Brees, Peyton Manning, Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers.

This dynamic makes it far more palatable to consider selecting a quarterback in the first or second round. The success rate with these big-name quarterbacks has been remarkably high, and if you go the other route and select a quarterback in the later rounds, you'll almost certainly need to make up a deficit of 8 touchdowns or more at the quarterback position (plus yards).

The following rankings are based on the scoring system of 6 points for touchdowns, 4 for TD passes, 1 for every 20 passing yards and 1 for every 10 rushing yards. To see compiled rankings for three different scoring systems, consult the cheat sheet section beginning on page 34. If your league uses a different scoring system, our projections can be customized at our website, www.fantasyindex.com.

1 With **Peyton Manning**, we get the feeling we've been here before. Like Charlie Brown attempting a field goal, with Lucy Van Pelt holding. Dan Marino had seasons with 48 and 44 touchdowns. Tom Brady threw 50. And Manning himself threw 49 touchdowns back in 2004.

All of those quarterbacks threw at least 18 fewer touchdowns the next year. Of the nine quarterbacks who've thrown 40-plus touchdowns, in fact, only three threw more than 30 touchdowns in their next season. Aaron Rodgers finished with a solid 39 (while sitting out Week 17), while Drew Brees is currently on a 46-43-39 run.

It's not easy staying on top. Defenses get better, schedules get harder, rosters change and injuries occur. In this particular case, Denver doesn't have Eric Decker or Knowshon Moreno anymore, and it will play a significantly harder schedule.

So while Manning sliced up defenses for 55 touchdowns last year, about 36-38 is probably where he'll wind up, and he may decline by about 40 yards per game. In our eyes, he's pretty much interchangeable with

the next two quarterbacks on our board, Brees and Rodgers. Formats and scoring systems vary, but we think all of those guys should be selected in the late first or early second round in a typical 12-team draft.

But while our preference would be to show off how clever and gutsy we are by dropping Manning down to 3rd, we can't logically string that together. Despite his neck issues, he's less likely to get hurt than those other guys. And if one of these quarterbacks is going to make a run at 43 touchdowns, it probably will be Manning.

2 **Drew Brees** is right there for the top spot. He and Sean Payton have the Saints on the greatest passing run in NFL history. Over the past five years, New Orleans averaged 312 passing yards per game and 39 TD passes per season, with 68 percent completions.

Brees is 3 years younger than Manning, and he plays an easier

schedule that includes a far more favorable matchup in Week 16 (when fantasy championships are usually decided). The Saints are at home against Atlanta that week, while Manning faces a better defense at Cincinnati (potentially in poor weather). Manning has the better Week 15 matchup (at San Diego, versus at Chicago for Brees).

But Brees isn't without flaws. The Saints' offensive line keeps getting worse, so he's getting hit a lot more than in the past. They also released Darren Sproles, who averaged 77 catches for them, and they don't have another pass-catcher like that in their backfield. Our hunch is they'll rely more on the run, which would tend to cost Brees yards and touchdowns.

Ultimately, Brees looks pretty much interchangeable with Manning. Both look like good bets to average over 300 yards per game and throw 36-plus touchdowns, but probably neither will put up the kind of eye-popping stats we saw last year. With a lot of other very good quarterbacks sure to be available later, probably early in the second

round is the spot to think about maybe selecting one of the top-tier quarterbacks.

3 **Aaron Rodgers** is the only other quarterback to potentially consider for the top spot. Over the past five years, his numbers have been just short of Brees', with 280 passing and 18 rushing yards per game and a combined 173 touchdowns in 71 games – 2.4 per week.

Rodgers is only 30, so he's at a better spot in his career, and the Packers probably have the best one-two punch of pass catchers of these teams. Randall Cobb and Jordy Nelson are both terrific. Denver's trying to replace Eric Decker and Knowshon Moreno; New Orleans won't have Darren Sproles. With the Packers, they probably just need to smooth things over at tight end.

As we work through the different variables, however, we can't quite get Rodgers into that top spot. He doesn't run as often or effectively as he did in the past; he ran for 4 TDs in each of his first three

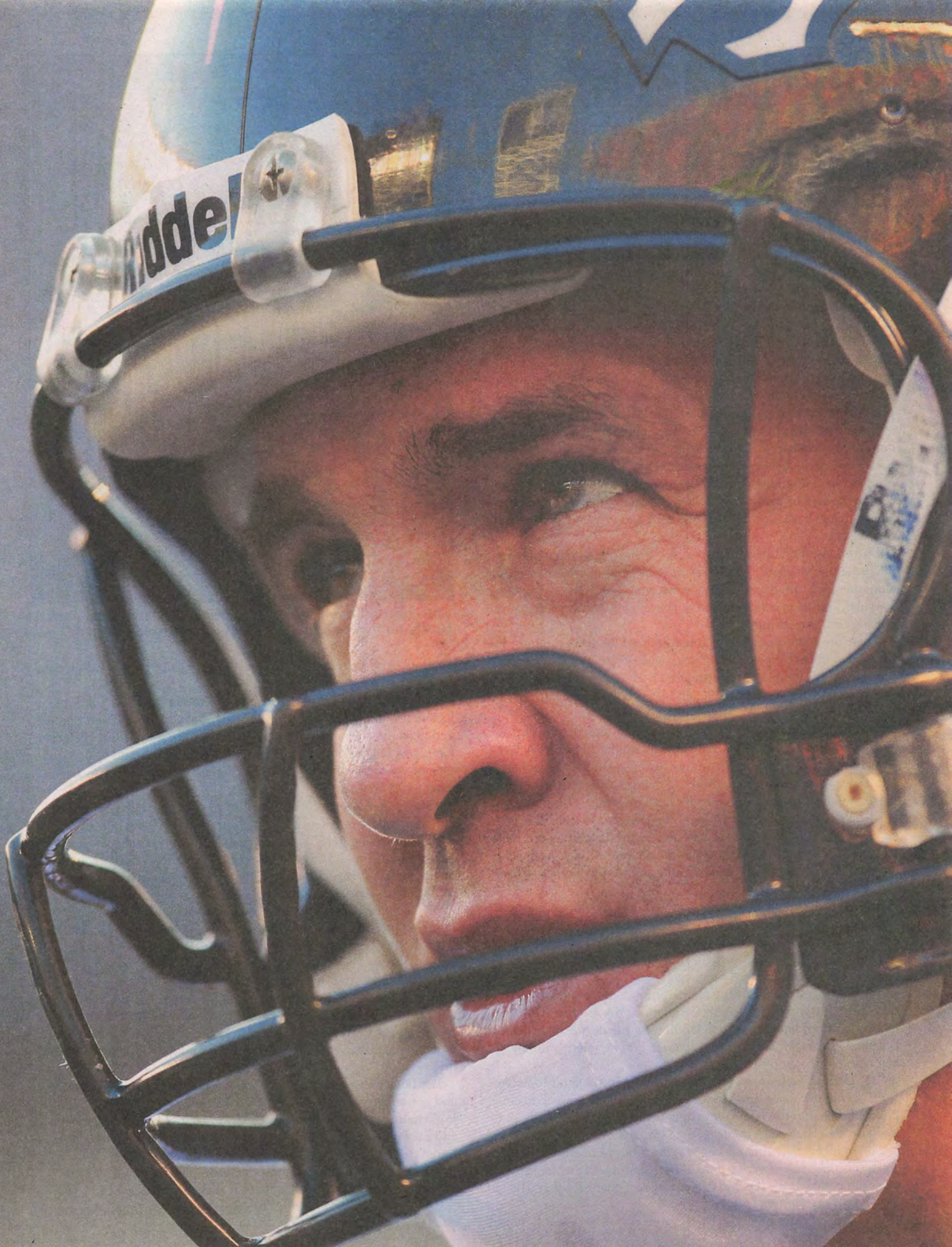


Drew Brees has thrown 39-plus touchdowns three years in a row.

KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Of the last nine quarterbacks to throw 40-plus TDs, only a third threw more than 30 in their next season.

ZUMA PRESS/CON SMI



Quarterbacks

seasons as a starter, but now he's scored only 2 TDs in his last 25 games. The Packers also should be more balanced now that they've got Eddie Lacy established; Rodgers averaged only 265 passing yards in the 2010 and 2012 seasons.

As those who selected Rodgers last year are painfully aware, durability can be the pivotal factor, and Rodgers takes more hits than either Manning or Brees. The schedule also doesn't look particularly good. Three of the first four are on the road, including the opener at Seattle. Rodgers probably will be the best "deal" of these quarterbacks – he might go a round later – but we're not willing to put him ahead of Manning or Brees.

4 It's a big drop down to No. 4. After carefully projecting all of the various individual numbers, it's our opinion that the statistical difference between **Matthew Stafford** and the top-3 quarterbacks is the same as the spread between Stafford and the rest of the quarterbacks in the top 10. Probably best to move to other positions after that top trio of quarterbacks is plucked off the board.

But of this next tier of quarterbacks, Stafford is the most likely to potentially average 300-plus yards and throw 35 touchdowns. He's been very productive over the last three years, and now he might be even better. The Lions significantly upgraded their arsenal of pass-catching weapons by signing Golden Tate and drafting Eric Ebron. They already have Calvin Johnson and a pair of pass-catching running backs.

Detroit also has a new offensive coordinator, Joe Lombardi, and he might help. He's spent the last seven years in New Orleans working alongside Drew Brees and Sean Payton, and he intends to implement a similar kind of system. Stafford might actually have a better supporting cast around him.

There are some issues to clean up. Stafford has gotten sloppy. He completed under 59 percent last year, with 19 interceptions and a league-high 12 fumbles. He's also just 11-21 as a starter over the last two years. But it's all correctable, and if everything falls into place, Stafford might even move up into the top tier.

5 Everyone made the mistake last year of underestimating a 37-year-old future Hall of Fame quarterback. Not that **Tom Brady** will follow Peyton Manning's lead and throw 55 touchdowns, but it's way too early to start thinking that his days as an elite fantasy player are over. Most of his struggles last year weren't his fault.

The Patriots, recall, were trying to replace four of their top 5 pass catchers last year. Rob Gronkowski and Shane Vereen missed half the season. Danny Amendola didn't meet expectations. And the offensive line underachieved. With that in mind, it was a surprise Brady wasn't worse.

Instead, Bill Belichick and his staff kept making corrections and lineup changes, and the Patriots ended up having their usual powerhouse offense anyway. Brady averaged 315 passing yards in the second half of the season, with 16 touchdowns in those final eight games – not far off his usual numbers.

The Patriots score a healthy chunk of touchdowns on running plays, which is a downer. And if Gronkowski misses time while recovering from knee surgery, that will raise the degree of difficulty. But Brady probably will be a top-5 passer, and he might wind up belonging in that top tier.

6 DeSean Jackson is gone, but **Nick Foles** doesn't look like a one-year wonder. They have too many other weapons in Philadelphia, and the offensive system is too good. Chip Kelly is a step ahead of the rest of the league right now.

The numbers Foles put up last year are almost unbelievable. He threw 27 touchdowns versus only 2 interceptions. He averaged 14.2 yards per completion, the 2nd-highest by any quarterback in the last



KELLEN MICAH/ICON SM

With better receivers and a better offensive line, Tom Brady should re-emerge as an elite fantasy option.

10 years. And he finished with a 119.2 passer rating, the 3rd-highest ever.

Jackson was a big part of that offense, and he'll be missed. But the Eagles also added some new pass catchers, trading for Darren Sproles and drafting receivers in the second and third round. While defenses have now had an offseason to mull how to better defend against this type of system, Kelly still has more than enough firepower to assemble a top-5 offense.

Foles' secret weapon is his mobility. He's got below-average speed, but they consistently catch defenses off guard by using him on designed running plays. Foles averaged 22 rushing yards per game last year, and he scored 3 TDs despite starting only 10 games. Only three quarterbacks averaged more rushing touchdowns per game.

7 With **Andrew Luck** it's best to start with the rushing production. He's a big, physical quarterback who calls his own number around the goal line. In two years, he's run for 632 yards and 9 touchdowns, giving him a big edge over the immobile pocket passers.

It's as a passer that Luck needs to expand and develop. He was a disappointment last year, completing a below-average 60 percent and averaging only 239 yards per game. He was more productive as a rookie, averaging 34 more yards per game and throwing just as many touchdowns. He averaged almost 2 more yards per completion in his first year.

But Luck will get it figured out. His receiving corps looks deeper and better, and now that he's started 35 games as a pro, he's ready to do more. They started opening up the offense in the postseason, and Luck passed for 774 yards and 6 TDs in the playoff games against Kansas City and New England.

If Luck moves up into the top dozen in passing – maybe 265 yards per game and 27 touchdowns – then his rushing production

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should help make him a top-5 quarterback. Despite mediocre passing numbers last year, he still finished as the 9th-best fantasy quarterback in per-game production. In our eyes, Luck is pretty much interchangeable with the three quarterbacks we've ranked immediately in front of him.

8 Sometimes the smartest move is to simply ignore what happened last year, and that seems to be the correct course with **Matt Ryan**. Julio Jones missed 11 games, Roddy White tried to play hurt all year and the offensive line underachieved, so does it really matter that Ryan had a poor year?

Ryan is an upper-level passer. He proved that the previous season, when he averaged 295 passing yards and threw 32 touchdowns. Now that the Falcons have had a chance to regroup, he'll likely get back to putting up those kind of numbers. Getting Jones and White back far outweighs the impact of Tony Gonzalez retiring.

Ryan isn't a factor as a runner. He probably won't run for more than about 40 yards all year, and he's scored only one touchdown on his own in the last two years. That's why we've got him slotted behind Foles, Luck and Newton, even though Ryan should put up better passing numbers than all of those guys (certainly Luck and Newton).

According to our projections, Ryan kicks off the third tier of quarterbacks. Using standard scoring, there's not much difference between Ryan and the next four quarterbacks, but these guys are a notch behind those in the top 8. Those waiting until the middle rounds before selecting a quarterback probably will wind up with one out of this tier, and then there's an increased importance in selecting a second viable player at this position.

9 **Cam Newton** is in the same boat as Andrew Luck. With his rushing production, he's a safe choice to be a top-10 quarterback. But Newton won't be a top-5 guy unless he starts doing more as a passer.

The rushing production looks solid. Newton's rushing production has declined each year, but he's a shoo-in to put up at least 500 yards and 5-6 touchdowns. He ran for 585 yards and 6 TDs last year, down from an average of 724 yards and 11 TDs in his first two seasons.

Newton should be a lot busier as a passer. He averaged only 211 yards last year in part because Carolina's defense was so good – that caused them to get more conservative with their play calling. The Panthers will allow more points this year, so there will be more games where they'll need to pass more to keep pace. Newton can do that; he averaged 253 and 242 passing yards in his first two seasons.

Carolina lost its three top receivers in free agency, but that's probably not a big deal. The trifecta of Jericho Cotchery, Jason Avant and first-rounder Kelvin Benjamin is probably as good or better than Steve Smith, Brandon LaFell and Ted Ginn. We're conservatively putting Newton down for 230 passing yards and 23 TD passes; with his rushing production, that puts him in that second tier of quarterbacks.

10 **Colin Kaepernick** was a disaster last year. He wasn't even a top-20 quarterback in adjusted per-game production. Kaepernick completed only 58 percent, and he averaged only 200 passing yards – more than only one other team.

But help is on the way. The 49ers worked with only one reliable wide receiver (Anquan Boldin) for most of last year. Now they've added Stevie Johnson, and Michael Crabtree will be available for the entire season. That should help get Kaepernick back on track; he averaged 30 more passing yards in his first season as a starter.

Kaepernick will be an above-average runner, but he won't put up the same kind of difference-making rushing stats as Cam Newton. The 49ers are careful not to expose him to too much punishment.

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He'll bust loose with a big run here and there, but in his two years as a starter, he's averaged only 33 rushing yards per game, with 6 TDs in the 23 games he's started.

Our expectation is for Kaepernick to run for about 500 yards and 4 TDs. If he moves up to 225-230 passing yards, with maybe 23 TDs, that should be enough to make him a top-10 quarterback. Not a contender, however, to hang with the real heavyweights at this position.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

Durability is a huge part of the game, and **Robert Griffin III** looks more likely to go down with an injury than any of the other quarterbacks in the top 20. He likes to run, and twice he's torn the ACL in his right knee – once at Baylor, and again at the end of the 2012 season.

But Griffin is healthy now, and if he plays in all 16 games, our projections suggest he'll be a top-5 quarterback. With DeSean Jackson, Pierre Garcon, Jordan Reed and others, Washington has one of the league's very best receiving corps. And Jay Gruden intends to set all those guys loose with more of a wide-open passing game.

Griffin is also a year removed from his reconstructive knee surgery, so he should move with a little more confidence and quickness. He says he intends to play without the bulky brace he wore last season. Griffin won't run as often as he did his rookie year, but 500-600 yards and 5-6 TDs looks possible. An excellent prospect to pair with a second quarterback in the top 17.

Along with Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, **Andy Dalton** is one of only three quarterbacks who's thrown 60-plus touchdowns over the last two years. Only seven quarterbacks averaged more passing yards last year, and the Red Rifle is also willing to take it in on his own, if necessary – 6 rushing touchdowns in his last 32 games.

But Dalton's real-life play isn't anywhere near as good as his numbers. He struggles with throwing deep balls, he served up 20 interceptions last year, and he keeps coming up short in the playoffs. Now the Bengals have a new offensive coordinator, which should involve some growing pains. Dalton was a top-4 quarterback last year in part because the offense was so good at finishing drives with touchdowns (47) rather than field goal attempts (22).

Seattle is as likely as any team to lift the Lombardi Trophy, but **Russell Wilson** doesn't look ready to become a top-10 fantasy quarterback. He's got some playmaking ability, but he's not carrying enough of the offensive load. Seattle has attempted and completed the fewest passes in the league over the last two years. Wilson averaged only 210 yards last year, 42 below the league average.

Wilson is one of the more mobile quarterbacks, but he tends to scramble to buy himself time to throw rather than trying to gain yards. He should run for 400-500 yards, but he scored only one touchdown on his own last year. About 2-3 touchdowns is our expectation.

Wilson has been very good in the red zone, finishing with 26 touchdown passes two years in a row, but it will be hard for him to improve on that total. He's a little more experienced, but it's not easy playing with the pressure of defending a Super Bowl championship. We think Wilson belongs in the third quarterback tier, similar in value to the four quarterbacks we've ranked right in front of him.

In Marc Trestman, the Bears have one of the top handful of offensive minds in the game, and that makes **Jay Cutler** a viable fantasy option. Cutler has struggled with consistency for most of his career, but in his 10 full games with Trestman last year he averaged 259 passing yards, with 19 touchdowns. Project that over a full season and you're looking at 4,100-plus yards and 30 touchdowns.

In Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery, the Bears might have the league's best pair of wide receivers. They also might play the best schedule

Quarterbacks

for quarterbacks. Their opponents, on average, allowed 260 passing yards per game last year, along with almost 27 touchdowns. If not for durability issues, we'd lump him in with the five quarterbacks clustered right in front of him. Cutler has missed at least one start four years in a row.

A change in offensive systems worked wonders for **Philip Rivers** last year. Under Norv Turner, he was asked to hold the ball too long, resulting in too many sacks, fumbles and interceptions. Rivers gets rid of the ball quicker in Mike McCoy's system, helping him re-establish himself as one of the game's best passers. He ranked 6th last year in both passing yards (280 per game) and TD passes (2 per game).

Some decline is to be expected. San Diego started using a more run-oriented approach during the second half of the season, with Rivers averaging 58 fewer yards per game. His touchdown numbers were also down a little (1.8 per game in his final 10 including the playoffs). His fantasy value is also damaged by his lack of mobility; he's run for only one touchdown in the last four years.

Tony Romo is one of four quarterbacks in our top 20 who's been downgraded almost 10 percent because of the potential of injury. He's undergone two back surgeries in the last year, and he's missed games in three of the past six years. If you want to set aside durability and compare apples to apples, then Romo moves up to 11th.

The Cowboys have hired Scott Linehan to run their offense, and that should help Romo's production. Linehan loves putting the ball in the air; his last eight offenses have all ranked higher in passing than rushing. They also should do a better job of pushing the ball downfield; too many of Romo's passes last year were of the dink-and-dunk variety.

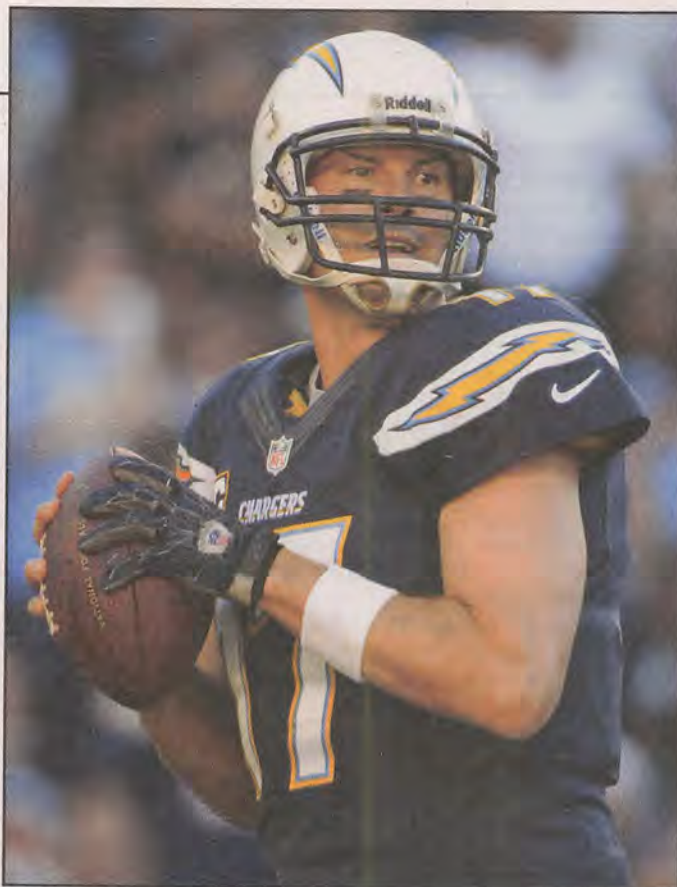
THE BEST OF THE REST

Eli Manning, Giants. New York had huge problems with its offensive line and wide receivers last year. Those have been solved, giving Manning the green light to re-emerge as a viable fantasy option. Prior to last year, he averaged 29 touchdowns per season and 285 yards per game in his previous three years. He'll move up a few spots in August when he shows that he's comfortable in the offense being installed by Ben McAdoo. This system requires a lot more short, timing passes, and that doesn't seem to be a strong part of Manning's game.

Carson Palmer, Cardinals. If we ignore rushing production, Palmer moves ahead of five of the previously mentioned quarterbacks. He ranked 9th in passing yards last year, up at 267 yards per game, along with a healthy 24 TDs. But that's not how it works. In typical fantasy leagues, rushing stats not only count but are scored at close to double value. That sends guys like Newton, Kaepernick and Wilson flying past Palmer, the only quarterback in the league who's as slow as the Manning brothers. In Larry Fitzgerald and Michael Floyd, he's working with one of the best one-two punches of wide receivers.

Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers. Like Romo, Roethlisberger isn't a slam dunk for 16 games. Big Ben, in fact, has played a full season only twice in his career. But he should be fine when he's out there. Among quarterbacks who've started at least half of the time over the past four years, he ranks 10th in both passing yards (264 per game) and TD passes (26.3 per 16-game season). Both Emmanuel Sanders and Jericho Cotchery signed with other teams, so the Steelers are banking heavily that former third-rounder Markus Wheaton is not only ready to play but play well.

Ryan Tannehill, Dolphins. Tannehill, believe it or not, passed for more yards and more touchdowns than either of the two quarterbacks selected before him two years ago – Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III. He was remarkably good inside the 10, completing



KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

With Philip Rivers behind center, San Diego converted a league-high 49 percent of its third-down plays.

a league-high 67 percent. But the Dolphins have offensive line problems, and Tannehill has a troubling tendency to hold onto the ball too long. He took a league-high 58 sacks last year. Miami's bringing in Bill Lazor to run the offense, and that could result in more running and less passing.

Alex Smith, Kansas City. Smith is entering his 10th year, and he's finally a fantasy relevant quarterback. Andy Reid has him passing more often and more effectively than he ever did in San Francisco. Including the playoffs, Smith threw 18 touchdowns versus only 3 interceptions in his final eight games last year. It's still an offense that errs on the side of caution. Smith averaged a below-average 221 passing yards last year, and he's the league's most careful quarterback with the ball – he's reluctant to try to squeeze balls into tight windows. But Smith is probably the league's most underrated scrambler. He averaged 29 rushing yards last year, and that's equivalent to 58 passing yards in most fantasy formats.

Joe Flacco, Ravens. The Super Bowl XLVII MVP comes off a lousy season, but most of the decline can be attributed to factors beyond his control. The team traded away Anquan Boldin, Dennis Pitta missed most of the season, Ray Rice had an off year and the offensive line underachieved. The Ravens have had a chance to regroup, and they'll get him back on track. They've improved the cast around him, and they've brought in Gary Kubiak to install a new offense that should be more passer friendly. In the two seasons prior to last year, Flacco averaged 23 total touchdowns per season and 236 total yards per game. Those are probably good starting points in trying to gauge how he'll fare in 2014.

Sam Bradford, Rams. Bradford averaged 2 TD passes per game last year, as well as 241 passing yards, so you might be surprised to see him ranked this low. But as well as St. Louis played in the sec-

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ond half of last season, after Bradford got hurt, we think it will affect its play calling. The Rams were better last year when they dialed back the spread formations and short passing game and just started pounding the rock with Zac Stacy. If that kind of mentality spills over to this season (and we think it will), Bradford's ceiling might be about 220 yards per game and 23 touchdowns.

Jake Locker, Titans. We know Ken Whisenhunt helped to revive Philip Rivers last year, and that his last seven offenses have all ranked higher in passing than rushing. But we also know that Whisenhunt has only really been successful when he's been working with big-time passers – Kurt Warner in Arizona, and Rivers last year. Locker isn't in that stratosphere; he doesn't seem to have the accuracy or decision-making ability. He's averaged only 191 passing yards over the last two years, with 18 touchdowns in the 18 games he's started. His mobility is a plus, but Locker exposes himself to too many unnecessary hits. He's missed 14 games in the last two years.

EJ Manuel, Bills. Manuel was pretty ordinary as a rookie, but let's give him a chance. The Bills traded up to select Sammy Watkins, adding a playmaking element into their receiving corps. They'll let Manuel do more, and he should attempt a lot more downfield passes. He averaged only 11.0 yards per completion last year, running a dink and dunk system. Average passing numbers won't happen, but Manuel will also run. He averaged 19 rushing yards per game last season, with 2 TDs in 10 games.

Ryan Fitzpatrick, Texans. Captains play with a C on their jerseys. Fitzpatrick may as well wear a patch with a J. After going 27-49-1 in starts with four different teams, he's a journeyman in every sense of the word. But the Ivy Leaguer at least has shown some ability to move an offense. Over the last four years, he's averaged 228 yards passing and 17 yards rushing, with a combined 85 touchdowns in those 54 games. He's one of 29 quarterbacks to start at least half the time over the last four years, and only 16 of those players have put up better per-game numbers.

Josh McCown, Buccaneers. McCown didn't do much in his first 11 seasons, so the temptation is to dismiss what he was able to achieve in Chicago. He lucked into working with a pair of big, talented wide receivers, and he had Marc Trestman cleverly pulling it all together. But the situation looks awfully similar in Tampa Bay. He'll be throwing to Vincent Jackson and Mike Evans. And offensive coordinator Jeff Tedford was able to make a lot of quarterbacks look very good at the college level, including Trent Dilfer, Akili Smith, Joey Harrington, Aaron Rodgers and Kyle Boller.

Johnny Manziel, Browns. It was telling that with a half-dozen teams starving to find quarterbacks, Manziel slipped to 22nd in the draft. If any of those teams were confident that he would be as good as Ben Roethlisberger or Philip Rivers, he would have been selected in the top 10. In the last 30 years, 17 quarterbacks have been selected in the second half of the first round. Only two of those guys hit it big (Aaron Rodgers and Joe Flacco). Two had at least some success (Jim Harbaugh and Chad Pennington). The other 13 were flops, including a pair the Browns selected in that exact same draft slot (Brady Quinn and Brandon Weeden).

Geno Smith, Jets. We're of the school of thought that Smith will beat out Michael Vick. With Vick entering his 14th year, they have similar mobility. And Smith offers a lot more upside as a passer. He actually completed a higher percentage of his passes last year, even though he was just a rookie stuck in a hopeless situation. The Jets have significantly upgraded their receiving corps. Smith put up surprising passing numbers for the first month last year, averaging 258 yards in his first four games. He'll also help his cause by scrambling; he ran for 366 yards and 6 TDs last year.

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Teddy Bridgewater, Vikings. As with Johnny Manziel, Bridgewater wasn't selected until late in the first round, and that's a concern. Sometimes a quarterback slides and everyone winds up kicking themselves – Marino, Favre, Brees. Far more often, the scouts are right. Bridgewater ran a pro-style offense at Louisville and put up insane numbers, including 31 touchdowns versus only 4 interceptions his final year. But he's got a thin build, and his arm turned into a wet noodle at his pro day.

Michael Vick, Jets. Vick might start some games, and his rushing production could make him a viable fantasy option at times. He doesn't run like he did 8-10 years ago. Remarkably, he's run for only 4 TDs in the last 29 games he's started. But he's averaged 42 rushing yards in those games, and that's like an additional 84 yards passing in typical fantasy leagues.

Chad Henne, Jaguars. Jacksonville wants Blake Bortles to sit and learn this season. That probably won't last for all 16 games, but it looks like Henne should be their starter for most of the year. He's shown some ability to move the ball between the 20s, averaging 244 passing yards per game over the last two years. But he's never been good at putting it in the end zone. Three times in his career Henne has started at least half of an NFL season, and he's never averaged more than a touchdown per game.

Matt Schaub, Raiders. The Raiders were willing to take him off Houston's hands, so they apparently think he can rebound. But they're probably alone on that island. His numbers have declined four years in a row. He doesn't have enough mobility to operate behind Oakland's offensive line, he's lost some arm strength, and it looks like his confidence is shot.

TRIVIA QUESTION

Which popular fantasy sports website has won the most Fantasy Sports Writers Association awards over the past nine years?

- A) ESPN
- B) Yahoo! Sports
- C) RotoWire
- D) SportingNews

THE ANSWER

RotoWire	2.5x AS MANY AWARDS!
ESPN	
SportingNews	
Yahoo! Sports	

ROTOWIRE

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Running Backs

We all want great running backs. That's the hardest position to fill in fantasy leagues. But it also carries the most risk. Featured running backs tend to get hit 20-25 times per game, so no surprise that attrition is higher than at quarterback or wide receiver. At those positions, players tend to get hit only about five times per game, so they have a better chance of staying in the lineup for all 16 games. That's a rule to keep in mind in drafts.

Consider the top 100 players at each of these positions since 2000 (among guys who started at least 14 games). These are players who tended to be in about the top half-dozen at their position the previous year. Of these groups, 31 percent of running backs missed at least four games the next year. But that was true for only 13 percent of wide receivers and 18 percent of quarterbacks.

Take a running back in the first or second round, in general terms, and there's almost a one-in-three chance you've taken on an injury problem. That rate goes down to about one-in-six for the other positions.

But you can't win without good running backs, so we've got seven going with the first nine picks in typical fantasy leagues. It's after that point, we think, that it starts making more sense to play it safe. In general, it's better to invest second- and third-round picks on elite receivers or quarterbacks, rather than rolling the dice on a running back who doesn't project to be a top-10 player anyway.

Injury probabilities are just as important in the later rounds. Fewer than half of elite running backs will play all 16 games, so many of those backup running backs getting picked up in the 11th and 13th rounds will wind up starting some games. Some of these guys, when featured, will put up the kind of numbers everyone was chasing after back in the first two rounds. Better to select backup tailbacks in the later rounds, rather than stockpiling mediocre receivers – you can always find 700-yard receivers on the waiver wire.

The following rankings are based on the scoring system of 6 points for touchdowns and 1 for every 10 yards rushing and receiving. Rankings change dramatically for PPR and TD-only formats, and those are reflected in the Cheat Sheet section beginning on page 34.

1 It's not a good year to be holding the No. 1 pick. There's essentially no difference between the top 4 running backs, so you may as well try to trade down a few spots and see if you can pick up something as modest as an extra eighth-round draft pick. But somebody must be No. 1, and **LeSean McCoy** makes the most sense. He's the right age, and he's in a great offense.

The shelf life for running backs isn't long. The really big seasons for running backs tend to come when they're 24-27 years old. Of the top 5 running backs on our board, McCoy is the only one still in that window. He'll be 26 on opening day.

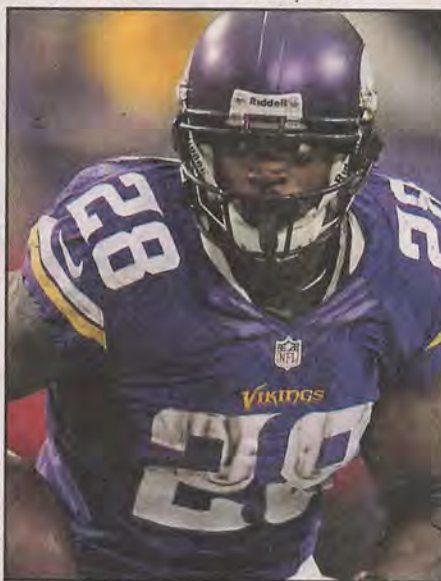
He's also in a Chip Kelly system that puts up pinball numbers. With their fast-paced offense, the Eagles run more plays than other teams, and that helped McCoy run for a league-high 1,607 yards last year. He very easily could have scored more than 11 touchdowns; Philadelphia's quarterbacks ran for 5 TDs, which is unlikely to happen again.

The Eagles signed Darren Sproles. He might cut into McCoy's receiving production. But we'll have to see how that plays out. At 31 and only 190 pounds, Sproles might not be a match with this offense. And even if McCoy drops from 52 to maybe 35 catches, he should still be just as good overall as the other top running back candidates.

2 **Adrian Peterson** is still the best running back in the league. Nobody can quite match his speed and power, and he isn't quite human. Two years ago, coming off reconstructive knee surgery, Peterson ran for 2,097 yards.

The Vikings are moving on from Christian Ponder, and that's a big plus. He's not a good enough downfield passer, so Peterson sees more eight-man fronts when he's in there. Ponder also ran in 4 TDs on his own last year. Better quarterbacking (and probably a better overall team) will benefit Peterson.

At the same time, Peterson is 29, and it's not realistic to expect his body to be quite as good as it was a few years back – a little less speed, and a little less power. Of the 30 top seasons by running backs in the last 30 years, only two of those were achieved by players who were older than 28 on opening day. Three years in a row he's undergone offseason surgeries, and he's missed games in three of his last four years.



Adrian Peterson should benefit from a new offensive system.

Of the four running backs at the top of the board, Peterson is also by far the worst pass catcher. All three of those other running backs averaged at least 22 more receiving yards per game last year. With Norv Turner running the offense, Peterson's role in the passing game will expand, but it's his production as a runner that puts him in the mix to be the best of the running backs.

3 **Jamaal Charles** looks similar in value to the running backs ahead of him, but we're slotting him down at No. 3, meaning there's little chance you'll select him if you use our draft board. He put up 1,980 total yards and 19 touchdowns last year, so it will be a shocker if two running backs are selected before him.

But every indicator suggests Charles is trending downwards. Left tackle Brandon Albert and guards Jon Asamoah and Geoff Schwartz all signed with other teams. That's \$18 million per year in blocking talent. You don't remove those pieces without there being an adverse impact.

Charles benefited last year from an unusually easy schedule. This year it's one of the hardest, with the NFC West replacing the NFC East. Those western teams, including Seattle and San Francisco, allowed 1,078 fewer rushing yards and 14 fewer rushing touchdowns last year.

Charles also simply won't play as much. Andy Reid concedes that Charles was overworked last year, averaging 22 touches per game. Knile Davis will be worked in more often this year as a change of pace. Charles is still a great prospect; he'll run for 1,100-plus yards, and he caught 70 passes last year, but we think the prudent course is to slot him just behind McCoy and Peterson.

LeSean McCoy looks more likely to put up blockbuster numbers than the other top running back candidates.

BRACE HEIMEL/GAMUSA TODAY SPORTS

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES



Running Backs

4 Of the elite running backs, **Matt Forte** is by far the least heralded. He doesn't have the speed or playmaking ability of the other three. But our stat projections suggest he'll be just as good.

Under Marc Trestman, the Bears have a top-level offense; only the Broncos scored more points last year. And Forte is essentially the only running back they use. He had a league-high 72 percent of his team's rushing attempts last year, and he also caught 74 passes, helping him finish with 1,933 total yards (as well as 12 touchdowns).

When December rolls around and it's time to crown fantasy champions, Forte may benefit from having the easiest closing schedule of all of these teams. The Bears are at home for three straight games starting in Week 14 – Dallas, New Orleans and Detroit. Two of those games have evening kickoffs, making it more likely that weather conditions will force the Bears to rely more on the run.

Our main worry with Forte is that, like Peterson, he's on the old side. He'll be 29 in December. Unlikely that he'll reel off 2,000-plus yards, and with the workload he's carrying, he might slow down or break down. Forte also isn't a good short-yardage runner; he's gone only 13 of 29 over the last four years when the Bears have needed 1 yard to either score or keep a drive alive.

5 **Marshawn Lynch** falls into the older running back category. At 28, he's now past his prime years, and he's taken more punishment than most backs his age because of his high-contact running style. When he goes into Beast Mode, it exacts a toll not only on defenders but on himself.

He's also logged a lot of carries, and it's tough to keep that kind of streak going. In the last 20 years, 35 running backs similar in age to Lynch came into seasons having carried the ball over 300 times two years in a row. Only 16 of those backs (46 percent) went on to get over 300 carries again. It's a physically grueling position.

Lynch isn't as good in the passing game as the three non-Peterson running backs ranked ahead of him. He'll probably catch about 30 balls. He's also running behind an offensive line that had some problems last year. The Seahawks (and this is hard to believe) were the worst short-yardage rushing team in the league last year, successful on only 9 of 22 carries when they needed 1 yard for a touchdown or to keep a drive alive.

Also note that Seattle has two backup tailbacks who might be better than any of the backups for the other running backs ranked in our top 10. We expect both Robert Turbin and especially Christine Michael will get on the field a lot more often this season. Rotating in fresh, those guys might be more effective than Lynch.

6 Of the five running backs in our top 5, probably all five of them have already played their best seasons. **Eddie Lacy** is different. He doesn't have the established track record, but after a standout rookie season, there's the intrigue that he could develop into something special – there's that unknown upside.

Lacy is a 230-pound bruiser who'll run people over, he's good in the passing game, and he also benefits from being in one of the league's best offenses. The Packers will rank in the top 5 in scoring, and with Aaron Rodgers on that team, defenses can't stack the line of scrimmage against the run.

It all looks good, and it's logical to expect Lacy will be better in his second year, now that he knows the offense better and has adjusted to the pro game and whatnot. But it usually doesn't turn out that way. Of the last 25 rookies to run for over 1,000 yards, only 8 of them came back and ran for more yards the next year. Of the last 10 to finish with 1,300-1,500 total yards (like Lacy did last year), 80 percent of them were worse in Year No. 2. The sophomore jinx, they call it.

We like Lacy. The idea of taking a 23-year-old with untapped



JEFF LEWIS/CON SMI

Handling the ball as both a runner and a pass catcher, Matt Forte might be the league's busiest running back.

potential is appealing, and he looks like an awfully safe pick in that offense. But the historical trends strongly suggest the smarter play early in a draft is to bank on an older back like Peterson or Forte.

7 Any time you have a good team, a good running back usually isn't far behind. That's our thinking in making **Montee Ball** the No. 7 running back. The Broncos scored a record 606 points last year, and as often as that team should be in the red zone, it will be difficult for Ball to avoid scoring a dozen touchdowns.

In the last 10 years, 26 teams have won at least 13 games. All of them scored at least 11 rushing touchdowns, and all but five of them scored at least 14. The Broncos were part of that group last year, and Ball and Knowshon Moreno combined for 2,290 rushing-receiving yards and 17 TDs.

Moreno is gone now, but there shouldn't be much dropoff at the position. Ball isn't as good a pass catcher; Moreno caught 60 passes last year, while Ball probably won't catch more than 40. But the second-year back looks like a slight upgrade as a runner; he averaged almost a half yard more per carry.

With Peyton Manning keeping defenses on their heels, Ball should see plenty of soft fronts, so 1,200-plus rushing yards is possible. The Broncos were only an average rushing team last year, but set aside quarterback scrambles (Manning doesn't run) and Denver's running backs ranked 5th in rushing. There's the slight concern that Ball will play his way into the doghouse with fumbles or by missing blitz pickups, but he looks very solid.

8 It's after seven running backs are gone that all of the remaining options come with a worrying blemish or two. Certainly **Arian Foster**. He's been plagued by injuries in two of his past three seasons, and three years in a row he's averaged fewer rushing yards per game.



JEFF MORFITT/ICON SM

DeMarco Murray is loaded with talent, but he's missed time with injuries in seven of his last eight seasons.

When Foster put up his best numbers, back in 2010, it was in a runner-friendly zone-blocking scheme, where it looked as if whoever they lined up at tailback would crank out 100-yard games. He's been far more ordinary the last two years, as the cast around him has declined. He scored only 2 TDs in eight games last year before a back injury sidelined him for the season.

But Foster is healthy now, and he turns 28 just before opening day. Too early to toss him on the discard pile. He's the back the Texans are counting on (they don't have much else), and there are a lot of soft run defenses on their schedule.

Foster says he'll catch a lot more passes in the new offense, and that's intriguing. The Texans haven't used him much in the passing game the last two years, but he has very good hands. He averaged 42 receiving yards per game in the 2010-11 seasons. Given the value of the position, we see him going in the late first or early second round.

9 For durability, **DeMarco Murray** looks like he could be another Darren McFadden. He's missed 3, 6 and 2 games in his first three seasons, and dating back to his days at Oklahoma, he's missed time with injuries in all but one of his last eight seasons. He can't stay healthy.

But Murray is productive when he's on the field. He averaged 80 rushing yards in the 14 games he started last year, with 10 touchdowns. He also caught 53 passes. Among running backs who started at least half the season, only four averaged more total yards per game.

At 215 pounds, Murray is big enough to run inside, but he's also got a breakaway gear. He's averaged 4.9 yards per carry over the last three years, 4th-best among the 31 running backs with at least 400 carries. The Cowboys don't have much else at running back, so they'll need to lean on him heavily.

Murray, though, doesn't look like a serious threat to be a top-5 run-
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ning back. He's more similar to the prospects who'll be selected in the teens. And those who select him will have to hope he can somehow stay healthy. Murray's in a contract year, so it could help him land a big signing bonus if he can put together a productive 16-game season.

10 We're reluctantly including **LeVeon Bell** in our top 10, but we'd rather slot him a half-dozen spots lower. He's one of the many runners who'll be selected in the second round but really looks more appropriate for the third. All of these backs should be selected after the franchise quarterbacks and receivers.

Bell turned in a solid rookie season. If not for a foot injury that kept him out of the first three games he would have gone over 1,000 yards, and he was way better than expected as a receiver, averaging 31 yards per game. He also scored 8 TDs in 13 games, so on a per-game basis, he was the 10th-best back in the league last year.

But Bell looks more functional than spectacular. He averaged only 3.5 yards per carry, which is about as low as starting tailbacks go. And while he caught 45 passes, his hands aren't particularly good – he had the 3rd-worst drop rate among running backs targeted with at least 50 pass attempts.

The Steelers signed LeGarrette Blount. They'll work him in as a change-of-pace back, probably reducing Bell's workload. And if Blount outplays him, this will quickly devolve into a true committee situation. Bell struggled in short-yardage situations last year, so Pittsburgh also could consider making Blount its goal-line back.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

The Bengals knew exactly what they were doing when they made **Giovani Bernard** the first running back selected in last year's draft. With his run-catch ability and squat build, he's like a young Ray Rice. He piled up 1,209 yards and 8 TDs as a rookie, including 3 TDs from 20-plus yards.

But Bernard weighs only 202 pounds, and the Bengals seem cognizant of the need to keep him healthy and fresh. He'll split time, and he might not score a 1- or 2-yard touchdown all year. As well as he catches the ball, they also might use him less in that capacity. Of the last 11 running backs to catch 45-plus passes as rookies, all but four caught fewer passes the next year.

Had the Rams not selected Tre Mason in the third round, **Zac Stacy** would be ranked five spots higher. He was remarkable in the second half of last season, carrying the ball a league-high 174 times. In those final eight games, he averaged 78 rushing yards, with 7 TDs. He's a durable, workhorse runner who hits holes decisively – just like he did at Vanderbilt.

But Stacy has a limited overall skill-set. Mason is a little faster, and he looked special at times at Auburn. Hence the decision to select him with the 75th pick of the draft – 85 picks before they chose Stacy a year earlier. Stacy begins the season as the starter, but Mason could play his way into a timeshare or maybe even steal the starting job. Neither one of these backs will be productive in the passing game.

Over the past two years, **Alfred Morris** has run for more yards than everyone except Adrian Peterson. Now we find out if he's truly one of the league's elite backs. Morris, recall, is just a sixth-round draft pick, and he doesn't have much speed. Now that Washington is moving away from Mike Shanahan's zone-blocking scheme, Morris might start looking less like Marshawn Lynch and more like BenJarvus Green-Ellis.

Morris probably won't be as heavily utilized as a runner. Jay Gruden favored the pass in Cincinnati, where his teams ranked 19th, 18th and 18th in rushing the last three years. Gruden also went with a committee approach last year, so if he can find the right back to tag-team with Morris, that's a possibility.

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Doug Martin averaged only 3.6 yards per carry last year, but some of the blame can be attributed to scheduling. Arizona and the Jets ranked 1st and 3rd in run defense, so understandable that he averaged only 55 yards in those games (and just 2.1 yards per carry). In his three other complete games, Martin averaged 100 yards and 4.6 per carry.

Martin is recovered from the torn labrum that sidelined him for most of last season, and the Bucs seem to be on the upswing after a solid offseason. But they'll work in other backs more than in Martin's rookie season (when he piled up 368 touches). Mike James is a good inside banger; he might be their goal-line back. And third-rounder Charles Sims is a better receiver; if they can get him coached up, he could be their main back on third downs.

Wherever you slot Giovanni Bernard, **Andre Ellington** shouldn't be far behind. They're the same size, and they've got the same catch-run skills. Ellington actually averaged over a yard more per carry in their rookie years, as well as a little more more as a pass catcher. With 8 runs of 20-plus yards in only 114 attempts, Ellington had the highest rate of big plays of any back in the league.

Ellington averaged 4 fewer touches per game last year, but he'll close that gap. Bruce Arians wants to get Ellington far more involved in the offense, as both a runner and pass catcher. Ellington was a change-of-pace back as a rookie. This season, he'll be in the starting role, with other backs spelling him. He won't carry at the goal line, and Ellington had problems staying healthy at Clemson.

Ryan Mathews has been plagued by injuries and inconsistency for most of his first four seasons, but he came around nicely last year. The Chargers made him the focal point of their offense in the second half of the season, and he responded. In those final eight games, he scored 5 TDs and ran for 775 yards, 2nd-most in the league behind LeSean McCoy.

San Diego won't run Mathews into the ground. Danny Woodhead will play on third downs, and Donald Brown is also available. But he should get plenty of work, as both a runner and a pass catcher. He caught 19 passes in the second half of last season. He's also in a contract year, which might help motivate him to put up big numbers.

Chris Johnson hasn't been quite the same back over the last three years. Some of that can be attributed to him not being used properly; he was a better fit with the system they used when Jeff Fisher was coaching. At other times, it seemed like Johnson wasn't running as hard. Hence the offseason conclusion that he wasn't worth the kind of money they'd have to pay him.

A move to the Jets could help get Johnson back on track. They'll strongly emphasize the run, and he might run with a chip on his shoulder now that he's been doubted. But the Jets will use a committee approach. Chris Ivory should get a healthy chunk of work (including probably the goal-line carries) and Bilal Powell might play on third downs. Johnson is far more likely to be an average back, rather than a difference-maker.

These rankings include not only rushing but also production in the passing game, and with that in mind, **Shane Vereen** looks like a solid choice. He might not start a game all year and probably won't run for 500 yards, but he'll be a huge part of New England's passing game. He's the Darren Sproles of that offense.

Vereen is as likely as any running back to catch 80 passes. He missed half of last season with a broken wrist and still caught 47 passes for 427 yards and 3 TDs. He'll catch screen passes, and they'll also flex him out wide, trying to get him matched up against linebackers.

Toby Gerhart hasn't played much in the last four years. That's life behind Adrian Peterson. But he's shown enough that it looks like he could be a serviceable starter for the Jaguars. When Gerhart got



KIM KLEMENT/USA TODAY SPORTS

The Bucs are going to more of a committee approach, likely reducing the production of Doug Martin.

109 carries in 2011, he averaged 4.9 yards per attempt. He averaged 7.9 a pop last year while running the ball only 36 times.

At 230 pounds, Gerhart could be one of the better tackle-breaking backs around, and he also catches the ball well. His speed is average at best, but he was able to bust loose for three runs over 25 yards last year in limited playing time. The Jaguars believe he's an upgrade over Maurice Jones-Drew, and Gus Bradley says he thinks Gerhart might be able to handle 18 touches per game.

If not for a looming suspension, **Ray Rice** would be in our top 10. The league likely will suspend him for at least a couple of games after Rice was charged with aggravated assault in a casino. But once that issue is resolved, there's no reason to believe Rice won't re-emerge as one of the better all-purpose backs in the league.

Rice underachieved last year, averaging only 3.1 yards per carry, but a good chunk of the blame can be attributed to an offensive line that underachieved. They'll get that fixed. Rice also will be 10-15 pounds lighter after bulking up too much last season. His intention was to add some power but instead he cost himself too much speed. Rice is a good bounce-back candidate.

Reggie Bush is a better back now than when he entered the league. Not as explosive, but a smarter, more decisive runner. Bush, recall, averaged no better than 3.8 yards per carry in his first three years with the Saints, when he'd freelance into too many negative runs. Now he's more willing to put his head down and take a 2-yard gain.

Bush has averaged 1,026 rushing yards and 4.6 yards per carry over the last three years. He also averaged a career-best 9.4 yards as a pass catcher last year. The Lions will rotate him with other backs, but Bush could make a run at another 1,500-yard season. He won't get many goal-line carries, and he's missed games in six of the last seven years.

At times, **C.J. Spiller** looks like a young Marshall Faulk. He runs, he catches, and a big play is always possible. Two years ago, Spiller ran for 1,244 yards and averaged 6.0 yards per carry. Only three other running backs in the last 20 years have gone over 1,000 yards and averaged 6.0 yards per carry, and they're all legends – Barry Sanders, Adrian Peterson, Jamaal Charles.

Spiller doesn't seem to fit as well in the offense the Bills started running last year. He averaged a more mortal 4.6 per attempt, and his effectiveness as a receiver dropped significantly. He's a smaller back, so they'll rotate him with other backs, and it doesn't look like he'll get many goal-line carries. He scored only 2 TDs in 15 games last year.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Lamar Miller, Dolphins. The top two rushing teams in the league last year ran hurry-up systems: Philadelphia and Buffalo. Now the Dolphins are going to that kind of system. They signed Knowshon Moreno, but he showed up out of shape. Miller got all of the work with the first-team offense at the drills in May and early June. He might simply be a much better fit with this offense anyway – he's a lot faster. It's a situation that needs to play out in August, but Miller looks like the favorite to start, and the new system and a vastly improved offensive line might help make him a run at being a top-10 running back.

Joique Bell, Lions. Bell went over 125 combined yards and scored in both of the games he started last year, and he might go over 1,000 total yards even if Reggie Bush stays healthy. In his 14 games as a backup last year, Bell averaged 37 rushing and 31 receiving yards, with 6 TDs. He'll be their goal-line back; he's a bigger, better inside runner. New offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi was an assistant in New Orleans for years, so he's no stranger to the concept of using a committee approach with running backs.

Ben Tate, Browns. Cleveland seems to have a good enough offensive line, and Kyle Shanahan is now running that offense. He's installing a zone-blocking system that's similar to what Tate worked in with the Texans. Alfred Morris averaged 1,444 rushing yards under Shanahan in Washington. But Tate has tailed off the last two years, averaging a modest 4.3 yards per carry. He's definitely a liability in the passing game. And we're not sure he can stay healthy; he got hurt every year in Houston, missing 24 of 64 games.

Maurice Jones-Drew, Raiders. Jones-Drew is 29, and he wasn't much of a factor last year in Jacksonville, averaging only 3.4 yards per carry. But the Jaguars were a trainwreck last year; other than maybe Adrian Peterson, probably no running back in the league would have averaged 4.0 yards per carry or run for 1,000 yards in that offense. Jones-Drew is just a year removed from averaging 4.8 per attempt. The Raiders bolstered their offensive line in free agency, adding three 16-game starters. He could have a couple of good years left. He brings more to the table than backfield mate Darren McFadden, who's never been much of an inside runner.

Rashad Jennings, Giants. Jennings put together a nice contract drive last year, averaging 4.5 yards per carry for the Raiders. He averaged 5.4 yards per attempt as a backup in his first two seasons with Jacksonville, then his career got sidetracked for a couple of years by a knee injury. He's 29, but the Giants have done their homework and think he's for real – they signed him to a contract with \$3 million in guaranteed money. But they also have two other younger backs who might be better. David Wilson is a lot more explosive but trying to return from a career-threatening neck injury, and rookie Andre Williams could be another Eddie George.

Frank Gore, 49ers. If Gore stays healthy and keeps doing his usual thing we'll have ranked him about 12 spots too low. He's averaged 1,184 rushing yards in the last three years, with 8-9 touchdowns



C.J. Spiller has the speed to break loose for long runs, but he didn't have a single carry inside the 5 last year.

every year. But Gore is 31, and he's taken a beating over the years – he's like Steven Jackson. And the 49ers have a host of capable young backs waiting in the stable. We expect they'll start working in those other backs, or Gore might simply break down.

Stevan Ridley, Patriots. Ridley's ball security issues rub Bill Belichick the wrong way. Three years in a row he's been benched for fumbles. But Ridley also has talent, and he's the most experienced runner they have. He ran for 1,263 yards and 12 touchdowns two years ago, and he might carry that kind of workload again now that LeGarrette Blount is gone. They've also got Shane Vereen, but he's more of a third-down back. Ridley's in a contract year, which should remind him to keep both hands on the football.

Bishop Sankey, Titans. Tennessee selected Sankey late in the second round, which is about a round later than he would have been selected five years ago. Teams don't like using first-round picks on running backs anymore. But he's still an awfully talented guy. He's a well-rounded 209-pounder who runs 4.49 and piled up 2,179 combined yards at Washington last year. Of the 55 running backs selected in the first two rounds the last 10 years, only four finished with more yards in their final college season, and all of those guys have had some success at the pro level – Matt Forte, Reggie Bush, Donald Brown and Ray Rice. Tennessee should use a three-back offense, with Shonn Greene punching in 1-yard touchdowns and Dexter McCluster catching passes on third downs, but Sankey should be their main guy.

Steven Jackson, Falcons. Jackson is Atlanta's starting tailback, and if his 31-year-old body is willing, maybe he'll punch out about 1,100 total yards and 8 TDs. That's the plan. But he's really slowing down. Four years in a row he's run for fewer yards, and he averaged a career-worst 3.5 per carry last year. In Jacquizz Rodgers and Antone Smith, the Falcons have a couple of nice change-of-pace

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options, and the way Mike Smith gushed about Devonta Freeman at the rookie minicamp in May, it might not be long before the coach decides the fourth-rounder is better than Jackson.

Trent Richardson, Colts. First rounditis. That's the affliction of sticking with a player too long not because of the merits of anything he's doing, but because of how early he was selected in the draft. In Richardson's case, he was the 3rd pick overall in 2012 – the highest by a running back in the last eight years. But if Richardson were tossed back into the 2014 draft, he might not even be selected in the second round. He's a big, powerful runner, but he doesn't seem to have the necessary vision or niftiness. He managed to go through all of last year without averaging more than 4.0 yards per carry in a single game. He says he's more comfortable in the offense now, but it's looking like Richardson is best suited to be a part-time back.

Pierre Thomas, Saints. Thomas led all running backs with 77 catches last year, and he might do it again. The dumpoff pass to the running back is huge in Sean Payton's offense, and New Orleans traded Darren Sproles (who caught over 70 passes in all three of his seasons there). The team's other main running backs, Mark Ingram and Khiry Robinson, can't catch like Thomas, and Travaris Cadet hasn't played much. But Thomas isn't much of a runner; three years in a row he's averaged only 32-35 yards per game on the ground. He's also scored only 13 touchdowns in his last 47 games.

Knowshon Moreno, Dolphins. Miami signed Moreno to a one-year deal worth \$3 million, but he didn't make much of an initial impression, showing up carrying some extra weight around the middle. If he can work his way back into form, learn the offense and regain the starting job, he might be a top-15 back. The Dolphins are going to more of a runner-friendly offense, and he's also one of the better pass-catching backs. But he's probably more likely to begin the season as a backup behind Lamar Miller.

Bernard Pierce, Ravens. Ray Rice almost certainly will miss at least 2-3 games for violating the league's personal conduct policy, and Pierce should be a top-10 back while filling in. Only two teams ran for fewer yards than the Ravens last year, and only two scored fewer rushing touchdowns, but they should bounce back. Their offensive line underachieved last year. Baltimore averaged 119 rushing yards the previous year, with 17 TDs. Pierce isn't as good as Rice in the passing game but is probably just as good as a runner.

Brandon Bolden, Patriots. Stevan Ridley never seems to go too long without fumbling his way into Bill Belichick's doghouse. Last year that led to LeGarrette Blount sharing that job, then becoming their featured guy late in the year. Blount is gone. Shane Vereen is available, but he's more of a third-down back. Chances are Bolden will play a big role in that offense at some point, and the Patriots always put up big rushing numbers. They've averaged 131 rushing yards over the last two years, with 44 rushing touchdowns. Bolden isn't fast enough (he's a former undrafted free agent) but he's averaged 4.9 yards per carry. Belichick must love that he's never fumbled as a pro.

Danny Woodhead, Chargers. Woodhead is one of the league's best third-down backs. He's dropped only 1 pass in two years, and he's effective as a change-of-pace runner. But his role should decline. The Chargers signed Donald Brown, giving them another back to mix in, and they were reducing Woodhead's role anyway. Of the 76 passes Woodhead caught last year, only 27 came in the second half of the season. He finished last year with 1,034 total yards and 8 TDs. His ceiling this year is probably more like 800 and 5.

Jeremy Hill, Bengals. The Bengals have Giovani Bernard, but they'll likely stick with a two-back rotation. BenJarvus Green-Ellis ran for 756 yards and 7 TDs as their second back last year, and



Trent Richardson played in 18 games last year, and he averaged under 3 yards per carry in half of them.

Hill is bigger and better. He pounded out 1,401 yards at Louisiana State last year, averaging 6.9 yards per carry. The Bengals like him enough that they selected him in the second round, ahead of backs like Carlos Hyde and Tre Mason. Once Hill nails down that job in August, we'll move him up a half-dozen spots on our board. If he's slow picking things up, the Bengals could leave Green-Ellis in that role at the start of the season or go with a three-back mix.

Khiry Robinson, Saints. Sean Payton talks to Bill Parcells regularly, and his old boss in December asked him why he wasn't playing Robinson more. Robinson made the team as an undrafted free agent, but Parcells said he reminded him of Curtis Martin. So Payton pumped up Robinson's playing time in the postseason, and the youngster came through, running for 102 yards and a touchdown on 21 carries in those two games. He's a more physical runner than Pierre Thomas, and he's a much better pass catcher than Mark Ingram. The Saints will use a three-headed monster approach at tailback, and Robinson might wind up being the best of those backs.

Fred Jackson, Bills. Jackson was the league's leading rusher inside the 10 last year, gaining 72 yards (along with 8 TDs). Who saw that coming? But the Bills run the ball often and effectively in Nathaniel Hackett's offense – 144 yards per game last year, along with 15 rushing touchdowns. Jackson is 33, so logically his career should have ended two years ago. In C.J. Spiller and Bryce Brown, they have a pair of backs who are a lot younger and faster. But Jackson is a more dependable and tougher inside runner than either of those guys.

DeAngelo Williams, Panthers. Williams is 31, but he's still one of the better big-play backs. In the last two years, he's scored 7 TDs from outside 25 yards on runs and catches. He averages 12.8

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yards per catch over the last two years, best of all running backs. But there's no chance of Williams being used in a featured role. Cam Newton and Mike Tolbert should score most of the short touchdowns. Jonathan Stewart will get a lot of touches. And if anybody gets hurt, they've got other youngsters they can plug in.

Shonn Greene, Titans. Tennessee likely will rotate its backs, with Bishop Sankey in the starting role and Dexter McCluster playing on third downs. But Greene should be their goal-line back, and he might average double-digit touches in a change-of-pace role. Sankey isn't particularly big (209 pounds), and he didn't play in a pro-style offense last year. Greene lacks a breakaway gear but has been a productive runner, going over 1,000 yards in each of his last two years with the Jets.

LeGarrette Blount, Steelers. Pittsburgh is counting on LeVeon Bell to be its main running back, but Blount is too good to be simply ignored. He ran for 189 and 166 yards in games late last year for New England, and he ran for 1,007 yards and averaged 5.0 per carry in one of his seasons for the Bucs. It's possible he'll play his way into a time-share situation. And the Steelers might think about using the veteran as their goal-line back. When the Steelers needed 1 yard to either score or keep a drive alive, Bell was the least-effective running back in the league (among the 30 who had at least 10 carries in those situations).

Darren McFadden, Raiders. If McFadden carries the ball at all this year, he'll be breaking new ground. Only two other running backs in the last 20 years have failed to crack 3.3 yards per carry two years in a row (with 100 attempts), and neither of those guys ever played again – Eddie George and Kevan Barlow. McFadden turns 27 just before opening day, and there is some talent there. He averaged 5.3 yards per attempt in the 2010-11 seasons. But it's been tough for coaches to harness that ability. He's also missed at least 3 games every year of his career.

Carlos Hyde, 49ers. San Francisco has a fleet of capable running backs, but the cream tends to rise in these kind of situations. Hyde is just a rookie, but he's bigger, faster and better than Marcus Lattimore. Kendall Hunter is just a change-of-pace guy. Frank Gore will begin the season as the starter, but he's in his 10th year and can't go on forever.

Bryce Brown, Bills. Brown didn't fit Chip Kelly's system, but he's a talented runner. He and Adrian Peterson are the only two players who've scored 65-yard touchdowns two years in a row (and Brown's done it while hardly playing). Now he's with the Bills, who run the ball so often that they ranked 2nd in the league in rushing last year. It's a two-back system, and with Fred Jackson being 33 and C.J. Spiller plagued by injuries, Brown shouldn't have to wait long for a turn.

Tre Mason, Rams. Most likely, Mason will be used as a change-of-pace this year. He's on the small side, and he's a total liability in pass protection. But should Mason move ahead of Zac Stacy at some point, he could stake a claim to the starting job. He's faster. Mason ran for 1,816 yards and 23 touchdowns last year at Auburn. After a pass-dominated start, the Rams ranked 11th in rushing in the final 12 weeks of last year, averaging 130 yards per game.

Chris Ivory, Jets. New York signed Chris Johnson, but that doesn't mean it will kick Ivory to the curb. He averaged 4.6 yards per carry last year. He's a bigger, better inside runner, so they'll set up a one-two punch – maybe three if they also use Bilal Powell on third downs. Ivory probably will be their primary goal-line back. (With hands like frying pans, he also might not catch a pass all year.)

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Chris Polk, Eagles. If you look at the top 100 running backs of this century (points per game), over half missed at least one game. Over 20 percent missed at least four games. It's a stat to keep in mind with LeSean McCoy. As great as he is, it's about 50-50 whether he'll play all 16 games. If and when the All-Pro is out of action, then Polk becomes essentially a first-round pick. Philadelphia unloaded Bryce Brown, so Polk is the clear backup there now.

Dexter McCluster, Titans. When Ken Whisenhunt was the offensive coordinator in San Diego last year, Danny Woodhead put up 1,034 combined yards and 8 TDs. That included 76 catches. That's what Whisenhunt had in mind when he instructed his new team to go after McCluster. McCluster caught 53 passes as a slot receiver for Kansas City, but he'll be a running back on this team.

Mark Ingram, Saints. Ingram will be a free agent at the end of the year, so he has every incentive to run hard, convincing some team to give him a nice contract next spring. The former Heisman winner played the best ball of his career last year, averaging 4.9 yards per attempt, but he doesn't look like a great fit with that offense. He's not fast enough, and he's not a good enough receiver. The Saints have two other backs that we think are better.

Andre Williams, Giants. The rest of the league doesn't seem to care for Williams; he wasn't picked until the fourth round, after nine other running backs. But Tom Coughlin says the Giants think Williams should have been selected two rounds earlier. New York doesn't have much else in its backfield – Rashad Jennings and injury-plagued David Wilson. Williams ran for 2,177 yards last year at Boston College, with 26 runs over 20 yards – the most by any Division I player in the last 10 years.

Donald Brown, Chargers. Ryan Mathews has had a lot of injuries. If he gets banged up again, there might not be any dropoff at all. Brown decisively outplayed Trent Richardson in Indianapolis last year, averaging 5.3 yards per carry. He's also gone four straight years without fumbling the ball. Mathews has played a little more, but he's fumbled 14 times in his last four years.

James Starks, Packers. As well as Eddie Lacy played as a rookie, the Packers were just as good when Starks was back there. He averaged 5.5 yards per carry, best of all running backs with at least 50 carries. Even while hardly playing, Starks had 3 TD runs over 20 yards. Starks should run for 20-30 yards per game as a change-of-pace guy, and he'll probably be a top-15 back if he gets a shot at the featured role for a few games.

Devonta Freeman, Falcons. Steven Jackson is too old. Jacquizz Rodgers and Antone Smith aren't big enough. And you get the feeling the Falcons will wind up turning to their fourth-rounder at some point. Mike Smith was very impressed with Freeman at the team's rookie camp in May. For 2014, however, Freeman is more likely to be used in a committee-type situation, rather than in a true featured role.

Knile Davis, Kansas City. Wise is the fantasy leaguer who spends as many late-round picks as he can on good No. 2 tailbacks. Davis ran for 81 yards and 2 TDs in the only game he started last year, and after Jamaal Charles got hurt on the first possession of the playoff game, Davis stepped in and put up 90 total yards and another 2 TDs (before leaving himself with a broken leg).

Jonathan Stewart, Panthers. Stewart has missed most of the last two years with ankle injuries, but he's only 27 years old, and he's still a talented guy. He averaged 5.4 yards per carry back in 2011. He has limited fantasy appeal because Carolina seems locked in on rotating its backs, with Cam Newton and Mike Tolbert no doubt poaching most of the 1- and 2-yard touchdown runs.



Wide Receivers

The fourth round. That's probably the best spot to get a so-called steal at wide receiver, given the way the board stacks. In our eyes, there are two wide receivers worthy of consideration late in the first round. The Georgia Tech guys – Calvin Johnson and Demaryius Thomas.

It's in the second round, after the franchise running backs are gone and before the second tier of quarterbacks, that the attention will turn to the pass catchers. Rankings vary based on formats, but in a typical league, it's our opinion that once you get to the 14th pick, 12 of the next 17 players should be wide receivers.

Whether you want to or not, the flow of the draft will almost force you to select a receiver with either your second or third pick. And there's a good chance that one of those dozen receivers will slide down in the fourth round, becoming one of the first real bargains of the draft – maybe Randall Cobb, Julian Edelman, Antonio Brown or Roddy White.

Draft plans should probably account for selecting a pass catcher in the first three rounds, because once 30 players have been selected, then it dries up at that position. On our board, only 6 of the next 36 players are wide receivers. Then that position re-surfaces with the onslaught of guys who are serviceable but not real contenders to put up special numbers.

The following rankings are based on the scoring system of 6 points for touchdowns and 1 for every 10 yards. If you're in a PPR or touchdown-only league, be sure to check the adjusted rankings in the cheat sheet section beginning on page 34.

1 You can nitpick and poke at **Calvin Johnson**. He doesn't score quite as consistently as the dominant receivers of the past – Jerry Rice, Terrell Owens, Randy Moss, Marvin Harrison. And he's fallen short of 16 games in three of the past five seasons.

Ultimately, though, Johnson is an easy choice as the No. 1 receiver in the game. The league is overloaded right now with franchise-type receivers, but none of those guys are quite on Johnson's level.

Johnson, for example, has averaged over 100 receiving yards per game three years in a row. In the last four years combined, only two other receivers have been able to reach the century mark – Josh Gordon last year, and Victor Cruz back in 2011. With those huge yardage totals, Johnson has been the best fantasy receiver three years in a row.

Johnson isn't as dominant as a scorer. He's 6-foot-5, but he's not as effective as you might think on fade routes. In his last 42 games, he's caught only 10 of 27 passes when the Lions have been inside the 10, with 7 TDs. He scored 16 touchdowns in 2012, but he's scored only 5, 12, 5 and 12 touchdowns in his last four other seasons. About 11 touchdowns is the fair over-under.

When we put pencil to paper, Johnson grades out as being over a fantasy point better than every other receiver. He's over 2 points better than all but three of them. You can start thinking him about five players into a draft; he won't make it out of the top 10.

Over the last three years, Calvin Johnson has piled up over 1,000 more receiving yards than anyone else.

2 The other Georgia Tech pass catcher, **Demaryius Thomas**, is the only other receiver to consider in the first round of a fantasy draft. He's almost as big and fast, and he's playing in an even better passing offense.

Not that Manning will be anywhere near as dominant as last year, but he's as likely as anyone to lead the league in passing yards and touchdowns, and Thomas should account for an even bigger share of that production. Eric Decker and Knowshon Moreno signed with AFC East teams, so Manning won't complete as many balls to those positions. In particular, Decker caught 9 touchdowns inside the red zone last year; now Thomas should be used more in that area.

Even if Manning doesn't look for Thomas much more than usual, the fifth-year pass catcher looks like a safe bet for top-5 receiving numbers. Two years in a row he's caught 92-plus passes for over 1,400 yards, with 24 touchdowns in 32 games.

In our eyes, Thomas is the clear No. 2 wide receiver. According to our projections, the statistical differential after him is about the same as the gap between the next nine receivers combined. Most fantasy leaguers don't like using first-round picks on wide receivers, but Thomas looks like a much safer selection than the running backs

who'll be selected late in the first round.

3 The Cowboys are bringing in Scott Linehan to run their offense, and that should help **Dez Bryant**. Linehan has been in the league for a dozen years, and he's got a good feel for how to utilize star wide receivers. On seven of his 12 offenses, his featured receiver has caught double-digit touchdowns.

The Cowboys didn't use Bryant properly last year; he didn't run enough deep routes. He was more effective two years ago, when he averaged almost 2 more yards per catch, with 8 TD catches from 20-plus yards. Bryant had only three of those scores last year. Linehan knows the value of getting wide receivers downfield; in each of the last three years, Calvin Johnson averaged over 16 yards per catch.

Linehan's strongest attribute, however, is his tendency to rely on his No. 1 receiver around the goal line. That's an area where Bryant is strong anyway. He was by far the busiest and best receiver in the league last

year inside the 5, catching 9 of 13 passes, all for touchdowns.

Bryant is the biggest knucklehead of all of the receivers in the top 20. He had multiple incidents at Oklahoma State, and he's had a handful in Dallas, including his own mother accusing him of assault. But he's in a contract year, which is a nice motivator, and the Cowboys have a three-man security team assigned to watch only Bryant 24 hours a day.

4 Unlike the other receivers in the top 5, **Jordy Nelson** is not a former first-round draft pick. But we're not holding that against him. He's got the necessary size and talent, and he's in an awfully appealing offense.

If not for Shea McClellin landing on top of Aaron Rodgers early in that Monday night game in November, Nelson probably would have finished with the 3rd-best receiving numbers in the league last year. In half of a season with Rodgers, Nelson caught 49 passes for 810 yards



Demaryius Thomas led the league with 14 TD catches last year.

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Wide Receivers

and 7 TDs. He caught 13 fewer passes and only one touchdown in his eight games with the lesser guys behind center.

With his size (6-3, 217) Nelson is effective on vertical routes; he averages 16.4 yards per catch over the last three years. And he's particularly good around the end zone, where precise timing and route-running are essential. Inside the 10 over the last three years, Rodgers has gone 13 of 19 when passing to Nelson, with 11 scores.

Nelson was plagued by hamstring injuries in 2012. Setting that season aside, he's caught 19 touchdowns in his last 23 games with Rodgers. Nelson is also in a contract year, perhaps giving him a little extra motivation to put up big numbers this season.

5 Can we all agree that **A.J. Green** is fast working his way into that all-time class of wide receiver? Think Jerry Rice, Randy Moss, Larry Fitzgerald and Calvin Johnson. If you want to expand it a little, toss in Terrell Owens, Andre Johnson, Sterling Sharpe and Marvin Harrison – playmaking, Hall-of-Fame guys.

The talent and production are there. Green in his last two years has averaged 98 catches, 1,388 yards and 11 touchdowns. And if he continues on the same course as those guys, chances are he'll be even a little better in these next few years.

Green won't get any faster, but he should get a little more polished and knowledgeable, and that's more important. Of the two best seasons by each of those other receivers, the majority (11 of 16) occurred when the player was entering his 4th to 7th year – the 4-year window Green is entering right now. Only two of those 16 really great seasons came in the first three years of anyone's career.

Fade routes are an area where experience might help Green improve. He's 6-foot-4 and has great hand-eye coordination, but inside the 10 over the last three years, he's caught only 17 of the 40 passes they've thrown to him, with 11 touchdowns. For Green to move up to about 14 touchdowns, he and Andy Dalton will need to develop a better chemistry in that part of the field.

6 We've got him ranked two spots lower, but there's not much difference between **Randall Cobb** and Jordy Nelson. Nelson makes more big plays, and he's been busier around the goal line, but Cobb definitely will catch more passes.

Cobb was on pace for 103 catches and 8 touchdowns last year when he broke his fibula in Week 5. He's healthy again now, and he'll be their busiest receiver. He's tough to cover out of the slot, and he can make people miss after the catch.

Unlike Nelson, Cobb hasn't been a big factor around the end zone, but that easily could change. He seems to be effective enough in that area; he's caught 6 of the 9 passes they've thrown to him inside the 10. However, his career is just starting; he didn't play much as a rookie, then he was their slot receiver, and he missed 10 games last year.

Cobb has scored 3 TDs on kick returns, but they're pulling him off special teams – they don't want him getting hurt again. But those who select him can expect some ancillary rushing production. He's run for 210 yards in his last 21 games. With a limited track record, he'll probably last until the third or fourth round, but he really should be going in the second – 1,400 total yards and double-digit touchdowns are possible.

7 In our eyes, there's little difference between **Julio Jones** and the four receivers we've slotted directly ahead of him. Once Jones steps on the field and runs around with no apparent problems on his surgically repaired foot, he might slide up to No. 3 at this position on our board.

If not for the foot injury, recall, Jones might have led the league in receiving last year. He was on pace for 131 catches and 1,856 yards when he got hurt in Week 5. At 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds, he's got the same body type and power as Andre Johnson and Terrell Owens.



Big-play threat: Two years in a row, A.J. Green has scored 3 touchdowns on pass plays over 50 yards.

Now that he's entering his fourth year, Jones is more knowledgeable, and they'll start using him more extensively. Note, for example, that he caught 4 of 7 passes inside the 10 last year. That's in five games. In his first two years combined (29 games), Jones caught only 3 of 11 passes in that part of the field.

Durability is the only concern. He's broken that left foot twice. He missed three games as a rookie with hamstring injuries. And he had shoulder, wrist, hernia and hand injuries at Alabama. But he doesn't look particularly likely to get hurt, and he'll definitely put up huge numbers if he stays healthy.

8 It's tough to imagine **Antonio Brown** not catching at least 100 passes. He's talented, he has a nice rapport with Ben Roethlisberger, and he's the only experienced receiver they have left in Pittsburgh, with Emmanuel Sanders and Jericho Cotchery having signed with other teams.

Even when those guys were around, Brown was the main cog in the passing game. He ranked 2nd in the league last year in both catches (110) and receiving yards (1,499). He also caught 8 touchdowns. He's just a former sixth-round pick, but his skills and abilities seem pretty similar to Randall Cobb's.

As with Cobb, Brown hasn't been used much around the end zone. Sanders and Cotchery combined to catch 11 touchdowns last year when the team was inside the 10. Brown, meanwhile, caught only 2 of 4 passes, with no touchdowns. With the team not having much else, we expect they'll utilize Brown a lot more when they're in that part of the field.

Brown has scored on punt returns in two of the last three seasons, but he'll likely be relieved of those duties. He's too valuable to the passing game to risk using on special teams. The Steelers used their third-round pick on Dri Archer, who ran a 4.26 at the combine, and he's the guy they want handling their returns.

9 Julian Edelman has been a starter in New England for less than a year, but we've seen enough to conclude that he's the next Wes Welker. He runs all the same routes, makes the same tough catches, and that's still the featured position in that passing game.

It wasn't until November that the Patriots finally committed to putting Edelman in that role. They signed Danny Amendola to a big contract last year, recall, thinking he'd be Welker's replacement. But Amendola got hurt and wasn't as effective, so they put the converted Kent State quarterback in that position for their Sunday night win against Denver.

Edelman doesn't look like he'll be leaving the lineup anytime soon. In his final eight games (including the playoffs) he caught 69 passes for 729 yards and 5 TDs, plus a pair of 2-point conversions. He caught 70 percent of the passes thrown his way, best among the 45 players who saw at least 100 passes last year.

Slot receivers typically don't play a big role around the end zone, but Edelman looks like he'll be an exception. Tom Brady went 8 of 11 when throwing to Edelman inside the 10, with 6 scores. Those in PPR leagues will have to mull whether they can risk letting him fall to the third round (our projections indicate he should be a first-round pick in that format).

10 We've been here before with **Alshon Jeffery** and **Brandon Marshall**, who can pretty much share the No. 10 spot. It's like Randy Moss and Cris Carter in the late '90s or Julio Jones and Roddy White a year or two back. Jeffery is the emerging Moss-Jones player; he's got a lot more speed and athleticism. Marshall is more like White or Carter, with the edge in experience and know-how.

For yards, Jeffery makes a little more sense. It's easier for him to get deep for the big chunk plays. He averaged 16.0 yards per catch last year, allowing him to finish with 126 more receiving yards than Marshall, even while catching 11 fewer passes. And the Bears also will look to tap into his mobility on end-arounds – Jeffery carried the ball 16 times for 105 yards last year.

Jeffery had a couple of giant games with Josh McCown – including going for 249 yards at Minnesota – but it's not as if he can't work with Jay Cutler. In Cutler's final four games, both Jeffery and Marshall caught 23 passes. They might both go over 1,300 total yards, but we think Jeffery will be 50-100 yards better.

For touchdowns, Marshall gets the slight edge. He's been working with Cutler for years, and those guys have a nice rapport around the goal line (and that's where most touchdowns are scored). Inside the 10, Marshall caught 10 of 16 passes last year, with 9 scores; Jeffery caught only 4 of 12, with 3 scores. That's why Marshall, even with fewer big plays, was able to outscore Jeffery 12-7 last year.

This is all guesswork, of course. Jeffery probably will see more touches in that part of the field, and he should also be more effective. And the Cutler-Marshall combo hasn't been as effective around the goal line in the past – just 10 of 30 (8 TDs) in their other three seasons together. Both are worthy, we think, of being selected before the end of the second round.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

There's a tendency in scouting to undervalue the older, more proven players, and **Roddy White** looks like one of those guys. He'll be 33 in November, and he's lost some speed. He's not even the best receiver on his own team. But that doesn't mean the 10th-year pro can't crank out a few more productive seasons.

White unwisely tried to play on a sprained ankle for most of last year, that's all. When he finally got healthy late in the year, White showed that he's still one of the game's better receivers. In

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his final five games he caught 43 passes for 502 yards and 2 TDs. He's working with a capable quarterback, and he may benefit from defenses tending to roll coverage towards Julio Jones. About 1,200 yards and 7-8 TDs look possible.

Vincent Jackson is one of the game's best big receivers. At 6-foot-5 and 230 pounds, he's almost another Calvin Johnson, and he's tough after building up speed on vertical routes. He's averaged 17.7 yards per catch over the last three years, the most of all players with at least 150 catches.

Jackson isn't as effective, however, on shorter routes around the goal line. He's so big that he doesn't start and stop as well, and he's not particularly good at pulling down the jump-ball type throws. He's caught only 5 of 12 passes inside the 10 over the last two years, with 4 TDs and a 2-point conversion. Josh McCown is the new quarterback, but he wasn't particularly good in that part of the field either last year, completing 8 of 17 passes.

Andre Johnson is 33, and he's grumbling that he doesn't like the direction the Texans are headed. He's upset, apparently, that the team didn't make drafting or signing a high-profile quarterback more of a priority in the offseason. Johnson potentially could be angling for a trade.

But all this talk could be forgotten in September. Ryan Fitzpatrick isn't the long-term answer at quarterback, but right now he's better than any of the rookies Houston could have taken. And Johnson could quickly come to adore the offense Bill O'Brien is installing. At Penn State, O'Brien built his passing game around Allen Robinson, who's a big, Johnson-type of guy. Robinson caught 97 passes last year – 72 more than anybody else on that team.

There's still room for older receivers in the NFL. Johnson's definitely in that class, and **Larry Fitzgerald** will be 31 on opening day. But of the 200 best seasons by receivers in the last two decades, 22 percent of those seasons were put together by guys who were at least 31 on opening day (29 percent if 30-year-olds are included). It's really up around 34-35 where you start worrying about age.

Entering his 11th year, Fitzgerald has lost some speed. He was never fast (he's probably never run under 4.5) but he probably can't go under 4.6 now. So he's evolving into more of a possession receiver; he's averaged only 11.5 yards per catch over the last two years. But with his size, precise routes and uncanny hand-eye coordination, he'll be the guy they'll feature in the red zone – that's how he scored 10 touchdowns last year.

In fantasy football, skeptics tend to beat optimists. Keep that in mind with **Keenan Allen**, who piled up 1,046 yards and 8 TDs as a rookie. The natural, optimistic tendency is to assume he'll be even better in his second year, now that he knows the offense better and has had more of an opportunity to build a rapport with Philip Rivers and all that.

In the last 20 years, 27 wide receivers have gone over 800 yards in their first year. Fewer than half of those guys had more yards in their second year, and only a third scored more touchdowns. While there are exceptions (ever hear of Josh Gordon?) that group's overall production declined by an average of 4 catches, 106 yards and 1.4 touchdowns. Allen looks like a nice guy to pick up in the fourth or fifth round, but he probably won't hang with those elite guys in the top 10.

There are some crowding issues with the Giants, where they've got Rueben Randle, Odell Beckham and Jerrel Jernigan, but **Victor Cruz** is more experienced and savvy than all of those guys. When that offense is firing on all cylinders, he's a strong candidate to be a top-10 receiver. He was the 2nd-best receiver in the 2011 season, averaging 109 yards in the 14 games he started, with 9 touchdowns.

In the first halves of the last two years, Cruz has been a top-10

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receiver (99 catches for 1,327 yards and 11 TDs in those 16 games). But both of those teams fell apart because of offensive line problems. They appear to have patched up those issues, giving Cruz a chance to re-emerge as an elite receiver.

It might be time for **Michael Floyd** to ascend past Larry Fitzgerald in Arizona. He's got the same kind of size, is 6 years younger and has a lot more speed. Floyd ran a 4.44 coming out of Notre Dame. He averaged 16 yards per catch last year – over 4 more than Fitzgerald.

Floyd doesn't have the same veteran know-how, of course, but he's starting to put it together. He finished with 87 more yards than Fitzgerald last year, even though he caught 17 fewer passes. Now the Cardinals need to polish him up on the shorter routes around the end zone. Floyd caught only 2 of 8 pass attempts inside the 10 last year, a contributing factor in Fitzgerald outscoring him 10-5.

If your league plays its championship game in Week 16, **DeSean Jackson** deserves extra consideration. Washington plays at home that week against his old team, and you've got to believe Jackson will have some extra bounce in his stride, wanting to show everyone what a huge error Chip Kelly made cutting him loose.

Jackson will probably be a top-20 receiver anyway. He's undersized, but few receivers can match his speed or elusiveness. He'll get deep for some long touchdowns, he'll turn some short passes into long gainers, and he might also contribute on punt returns and end-arounds.

If we're setting aside injury potential, then please move **Wes Welker** up in front of Victor Cruz. He's in a great offense, and he catches a lot balls. He was their busiest receiver around the goal line last year, and they might even use him more in that area now that Eric Decker isn't around.

But Welker is starting to break down physically. He's 33, he's small, and he takes a lot of punishment with the type of routes he runs. He's missed games in three of the past five years. He suffered two concussions last year, causing the team to put him in a new oversized helmet in the postseason.

In the salary cap era, the worst mistake is handing out a bad contract, which is why the Dolphins quietly made calls in the offseason, seeing if any team was willing to take on **Mike Wallace** and his bloated contract, which includes \$15 million guaranteed this year. Wallace is worth less than half that, which is pretty similar to Miami having an \$8 million player blow out his knee in training camp.

But the Dolphins are stuck with Wallace, and it's not as if he simply can't play. He'll challenge for 1,000 yards, and he's still one of the fastest receivers in the league. They just need to do a better job of figuring out how to get him open when every defense knows that's his ace card. Wallace has caught only 20 passes of 20-plus yards in the last two years. In his previous two seasons, he caught 44.

Riley Cooper had a nice rapport with Nick Foles last year, but can we toss out that insane game at Oakland (where Cooper went for 139 yards and 3 TDs)? They're not playing the Raiders this year, and they probably won't see a secondary that bad. In Cooper's other games with Foles, he produced at a rate that would result (in a 16-game season) in 61 catches for 1,053 yards and 9 TDs. That's the starting point.

Cooper is huge (6-3, 222) so on vertical routes he can create some of the same matchup problems as guys like Vincent Jackson and Eric Decker. He averaged 17.8 yards per catch last year. But Cooper will struggle at times getting away from top cornerbacks, and he'll probably see more of those guys now that DeSean Jackson is gone.

In **Terrance Williams**, the Cowboys could be sitting on one of this year's breakout wide receivers. He turned in a solid rookie season, catching 44 passes for 736 yards and 5 touchdowns while filling in for



Michael Floyd emerged as Arizona's primary deep threat last year, averaging 16 yards per reception.

and rotating with Miles Austin. Williams will be a full-time player this year, and he could benefit from defenses rolling coverage toward Dez Bryant.

At 6-foot-2, Williams has the height and long strides to excel on longer routes; he averaged 16.7 yards per catch last year. Of the last 20 receivers to finish with 700-900 yards in their first year, eight then went over 1,000 in Year No. 2. Five finished with numbers that were worse, while seven were about the same. (And that's guys taken in the first three rounds only.)

Torrey Smith of the Ravens is one of the best vertical receivers in the league. He runs a 4.4, and he's the guy they look to when they're trying to go over the top for a big play. He's averaged 17.4 yards per catch over the last two years, 2nd-best for players with at least 100 catches.

But Smith probably won't be used extensively on the shorter routes, particularly around the goal line. Baltimore doesn't pass the ball particularly well, and it has plenty of other pass catchers who might be better on those routes anyway, including Dennis Pitta, Steve Smith and jumbo-sized youngster Marlon Brown. Smith finished with 1,128 yards last year but caught only 4 touchdowns.

Jim Harbaugh likes to brag that **Michael Crabtree** has the best hands of all time, which is patently ridiculous. Crabtree has dropped 6 passes in 24 games the last two years. He has above-average hands – probably top 30 percent – but he's not up there with the likes of Cris Carter and Larry Fitzgerald.

Crabtree put up top-10 receiving numbers when working with Colin Kaepernick two years ago. He averaged 88 yards in those 10 games, with 7 TDs. But it's tough envisioning him filling that kind of role now that San Francisco has a better, deeper receiving corps. Crabtree averaged 61 yards in eight games last year, with one touchdown.

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THE BEST OF THE REST

Pierre Garcon, Washington. Garcon led the NFL last year with 113 catches, but it's a new season and a new offense. Under the Shanahans, everything tended to get funneled through that featured flanker. Jay Gruden will use more three-receiver sets, and Garcon might not even be the best pass catcher on his own team. DeSean Jackson has more big-play ability, and Andre Roberts also will be involved.

Cordarrelle Patterson, Vikings. Two years in a row, Norv Turner's fingerprints have been on one of the big breakout receivers of the year — Josh Gordon last year, and Danario Alexander in San Diego back in 2012. Turner is the offensive coordinator for the Vikings now, and Patterson is the receiver they'd like to feature. He's painfully raw, but he has the requisite talent and will contribute as more than just a pass catcher. He scored 2 TDs on kick returns last year and also ran for 158 yards and another 3 TDs.

T.Y. Hilton, Colts. In wins against Seattle, Houston and Kansas City last year, Hilton caught 25 passes for 485 yards and 7 TDs. But he didn't get in the end zone in any of their other 15 games. At 5-foot-9 and 183 pounds (if that) he's one of the league's smallest receivers, so they protect him by rotating him with their many other wide receivers. Hilton has unusually small hands and is best suited to run vertical routes, so he shouldn't be a big part of what they do inside the red zone.

Brian Hartline, Dolphins. Only nine receivers have gone over 1,000 yards two years in a row, and this is one of them. Two years in a row he's caught more passes for more yards than Mike Wallace. Hartline is good on vertical routes down the sidelines; he's 6-foot-2 and ran a 4.52 at his combine back in the day. But he's not as effective or even used much when the team is around the end zone. The Dolphins have attempted 44 passes inside the 10 in the last two years. Hartline has been an intended target on only 5 of those plays, resulting in 1 reception (a 4-yard touchdown at Pittsburgh last year).

Percy Harvin, Seahawks. Harvin can't stay healthy. Dating back to Florida, he's missed games in seven of his last eight seasons. And even if one assumes he'll somehow run the gauntlet and make it through all 16 games, he probably still won't be a top-20 receiver. The Seahawks rank last in pass attempts over the last two years, and they tend to spread things around among their receivers. Probably nobody on this team will catch 70 passes.

Brandin Cooks, Saints. Cooks caught 128 at Oregon State last year. That doesn't necessarily mean much. Of the last 10 first-round wide receivers to catch 90-plus passes in their final college season, 80 percent of them finished under 60 catches (Kendall Wright and Justin Blackmon made it up to 64). But in this case, the Saints pile up the passes, and they traded away Darren Sproles. They're looking for somebody who can catch short passes and make people miss, and Cooks should fill that role.

DeAndre Hopkins, Texans. Hopkins had a serviceable rookie season, catching 52 passes for 802 yards, but that far from guarantees that he's headed for greatness. Among receivers selected in the first three rounds over the last 20 years, 13 have caught 50-55 passes in their first season. Six of those receivers actually caught fewer balls in their second year. As a group, they caught 10 fewer touchdowns. But Hopkins seems to have some ability, and Andre Johnson doesn't seem to be happy in Houston.

Golden Tate, Lions. In moving from Seattle to Detroit, Tate goes from the team that has attempted the fewest passes in the last two years to the one that has attempted the most. The Lions in their last 32 games have attempted 549 more passes than the Seahawks. But it's a roster with plenty of mouths to feed. Calvin Johnson needs to catch 100-plus balls.

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Reggie Bush and Joique Bell both caught over 50 last year. The Lions selected Eric Ebron in the first round. And one gets the feeling Tate probably will be the same 800-yard wide receiver that he was in Seattle.

Mike Evans, Bucs. It's always easy in the offseason to kick around theories that a receiver will dominate in the red zone because he's 6-foot-5 (like Evans), rather than the other three receivers selected in the top 20, who were all at least 4 inches shorter. But everything gets harder when said receiver has to line up against real-life NFL cornerbacks in September. We'll concede that Evans made plenty of height-assisted catches at Texas A&M, but note that Johnny Manziel threw 63 touchdowns there, and Evans caught only 17 of them.

Tavon Austin, Rams. As a rookie, Austin caught 81- and 57-yard touchdowns, returned a punt for a score and ran for a 65-yard touchdown. But he was largely a disappointment. They thought he'd be able to catch short passes and make people miss, but it didn't happen. He was one of only two wide receivers to drop over 10 percent of the passes thrown to him, and outside of those two long touchdowns averaged only 7.4 yards per catch. Not that the Rams are giving up on him, but if they could have a do-over on the 2013 draft, there's no way they'd select Austin in the first round.

Dwayne Bowe, Kansas City. Bowe will be 30 in September, and that might be a good age for him. He's more experienced, mature and professional now. He's working with a nutritionist and a personal trainer for the first time. But tough to get excited about any wide receiver working with Alex Smith, who'd rather throw the ball away than risk throwing to a receiver who isn't completely open. Bowe remarkably made it through the entire regular season last year without ever finishing with more than 70 yards in a game (then teased everyone with 8 catches for 150 and a touchdown in the playoff loss at Indianapolis).

Kendall Wright, Titans. He's not quite up there with Wes Welker or Julian Edelman, but Wright is a solid slot receiver. He caught 94 passes last year, and he caught 68 percent of the passes they threw his way, 4th-best among wide receivers with at least 100 pass attempts. The Titans have a new coaching staff and a new offense, and that could diminish his role. Ken Whisenhunt was with the Chargers last year, and they didn't heavily use a slot receiver. Wright doesn't have great size or speed, so he might really tail off if they ask him to run more downfield routes.

Eric Decker, Jets. Decker won't come anywhere close to the kind of stats he put up last year. With Peyton Manning, the Broncos threw 42 more touchdown passes than the Jets last year, as well as averaging 144 more yards. But Decker has played in one of these offenses before; the Broncos started Tim Tebow three years ago. That season Decker caught 44 passes for 612 yards and 8 TDs, and that's probably a good ballpark estimate for the kind of production to expect this year.

Marques Colston, Saints. Colston has been plagued by foot and knee issues for years, and he's 31. His body is breaking down. At the beginning of his career, they were using him on downfield routes. Now he's just a big slot receiver. Drew Brees put up those insane passing numbers last year, and Colston somehow managed to finish with only 943 yards and 5 TDs. If he surprises us and stays healthy, he probably still won't be a top-25 receiver.

Anquan Boldin, 49ers. As with Colston, durability is a big concern. Boldin is 33, and his body has taken a pounding over the years. He's missed games with injuries in seven of his last 10 seasons. Boldin put up great numbers last year (the only player to catch over 35 percent of his team's passes) but he won't be as heavily utilized. The 49ers traded for Stevie Johnson, and they'll also have Michael Crabtree for the full season.

Wide Receivers

Sammy Watkins, Bills. The Bills are confident that Watkins is one of those transcendent, difference-makers who comes along only once every few years. They tried to trade up to No. 1 to get him, and made offers to the Rams and Jaguars before finally making a deal with Cleveland at No. 4. But even the superstar receivers tend to need some time to get comfortable. Of the last 10 selected in the top 5, only A.J. Green went for 1,000 yards. Only four scored 7-8 TDs. None of the other six scored more than 5 TDs.

Markus Wheaton, Steelers. Emmanuel Sanders and Jericho Cotchery combined for 113 catches and 16 touchdowns, and those guys are gone. Wheaton more than anyone else is the receiver the Steelers are looking at to fill that void. In part because of a broken finger, he didn't play much as a rookie, but he was a monster his final season at Oregon State, piling up 91 catches, 1,386 yards and 13 touchdowns. When the preseason games start and he looks comfortable running with the first-unit, he'll move up 10 spots on our board.

Kenny Stills, Saints. Stills was a one-trick pony last year, almost exclusively running fly patterns. He averaged 20.0 yards per catch, but he caught only 32 passes. Inside the 10, he was the intended target on only one pass (incompletion). They'll probably leave him in this kind of a role, and he'll finish with maybe 800 yards and 6 TDs. But if they expand his duties, having him pick up more of the shorter routes, Stills then becomes a breakout candidate. He was a more well-rounded player his final season at Oklahoma, catching 82 passes and 11 touchdowns.

Aaron Dobson, Patriots. Dobson struggled early in his rookie season, and he was a non-factor late because of a stress fracture in his foot. But briefly during the middle, he flashed the ability that prompted the Patriots to select him in the second round. In a five-game stretch starting in Week 6, he caught 22 passes for 325 yards and 3 TDs. He should beat out Kenbrell Thompson and Brandon LaFell for a starting job, and Brandon Lloyd caught 74 passes in that role two years ago.

Doug Baldwin, Seahawks. Baldwin wasn't even drafted, so he tends to be thought of as more of a No. 3 receiver, but it might be time to revise that thinking. He doesn't have great size or speed, but he studies really hard. He averaged 10.7 yards per pass play last year, making him the 2nd-most effective wide receiver in the league. Tough to see him getting past about 800 yards and 5 TDs, however, because the Seahawks don't pass much and will rotate through a lot of guys.

Greg Jennings, Vikings. We're slotting Jennings behind teammate Cordarrelle Patterson, whose physical talents are off the charts. But Jennings has a lot more experience and know-how, and he played awfully well last year after the Vikings pulled scatter-armed Christian Ponder. He was over twice as productive in his seven games with Matt Cassel, catching 41 passes for 491 yards and 4 TDs. Norv Turner is putting in a new offense that emphasizes vertical routes and longer throws, and Jennings admitted at the OTAs in May that he was having trouble adjusting after years of playing in a West Coast system. "My head is swimming," he said.

Jeremy Maclin, Eagles. Even before tearing his ACL last summer, Maclin never had the same kind of speed or downfield ability as DeSean Jackson. Nor does he create the same kind of height mismatches as Riley Cooper. But the Eagles have one of the league's best passing offenses, and they seem to think Maclin will fit in just fine. They re-signed him to a one-year deal worth \$5.5 million.

Denarius Moore, Raiders. James Jones is the more-heralded name among Oakland's wide receivers, but we're not sure that Moore isn't better. Their numbers have been pretty comparable over the last three years. Moore has more ability to get downfield, and he's also in a contract year.

Justin Hunter, Titans. Like his college teammate, Cordarrelle Patterson, Hunter is an unfinished product. He hardly knows what he's doing, which is why he wasn't even active at the start of last season. But he's remarkably talented. At 6-foot-4 and with a nice feel for high-pointing the ball, he might be as good as anyone at pulling down those longer, 50-50 lob balls – up there with the likes of A.J. Green and Calvin Johnson in that area. Hunter won't necessarily even start, but he's got more upside than most of the other young receivers.

Cecil Shorts III, Jaguars. Shorts has the skills to be a No. 1 receiver. He showed that two years ago, when he averaged 86 yards in the nine games he started, with 5 TDs. But they didn't use him properly last season; they had him running way too many short routes, and he averaged 6 fewer yards per reception. After an offseason at the drawing board, Shorts could be used differently this year. Justin Blackmon is likely out for the year, and Jacksonville's other two main receivers might both be rookies (second-rounders Marqise Lee and Allen Robinson).

Marvin Jones, Bengals. As a surprisingly effective weapon around the goal line, Jones finished with 10 touchdowns last year, but four of those came in one outlier game against the Jets. Defenses should make him more of a priority this season, and the Bengals look ripe for an overall decline anyway. They were the 2nd-best offense in the league last year at scoring touchdowns rather than settling for field goals, and they lost offensive coordinator Jay Gruden.

Reggie Wayne, Colts. Wayne was on pace to finish the year with 87 catches, 1,150 yards and 5 TDs when he blew out his knee against Denver. He's been Andrew Luck's security blanket. But the receiving corps on that team is deeper now, and Wayne is no spring chicken. He'll be 36 in November. Only three receivers his age have gone over 1,000 yards in the last 20 years: Joey Galloway, Jimmy Smith and Jerry Rice (3 times). Only two others have reached 900 yards (Terrell Owens and Tim Brown).

Jericho Cotchery, Panthers. Cotchery isn't fast enough to make any big plays, but he's got the smarts, toughness and hands to work the short and intermediate routes. He had a pair of 82-catch seasons with the Jets, and he was Ben Roethlisberger's favorite target in the red zone last year, scoring 10 touchdowns on his 46 catches as their No. 3 guy. Carolina doesn't have much at wide receiver, so we're guessing Cotchery will be their top guy.

Emmanuel Sanders, Broncos. This might be low, given that Sanders is joining a quarterback who tossed 55 touchdowns last year. But we're not sure Sanders will have much of a role in that offense. At 5-foot-11 and 180 pounds, he's not really the right size to replace Eric Decker as an outside receiver. Once they get second-round Cody Latimer coached up, they'll plug him into that spot. Those who select Sanders will benefit if Wes Welker misses any time, opening up that busy slot spot.

Andrew Hawkins, Browns. Hawkins is a former CFL player who hardly played last year because of an ankle injury. At 5-foot-7 and 180 pounds, he doesn't seem big enough to be a starter. But the Browns signed him to a free agent contract that will pay him \$4.8 million this year, and he was their best receiver at their OTAs in June. Brian Hoyer says Hawkins reminds him of Wes Welker.

Jeremy Kerley, Jets. If a team averages under 200 passing yards per game and a wide receiver still manages to catch 56 passes for 827 yards, isn't that a guy who can play? That's what Kerley did two years ago. He struggled with injuries for much of last year, including missing four games, but he looks like a strong bounce-back candidate. He might be just as good as their high-priced free agent pickup, Eric Decker.

Josh Gordon, Browns. If he were playing a full 16 games, Gordon would be a top 6 receiver on our board. He averaged 118 receive-

ing yards per game last year, the 2nd-most by any player in this century. But reports indicate Gordon failed a drug test for marijuana, potentially sidelining him for the entire season; with an appeal, maybe he can get that down to eight games. The Browns also won't pass nearly as often or effectively this year; they're going to more of a run-oriented offense.

Rueben Randle, Giants. Randle has some playmaking ability. He showed that last year when he caught 6 touchdowns in six games. With Hakeem Nicks gone, they're looking for him to play more and do more. But he made way too many route-running errors last year, contributing to Eli Manning throwing 8 interceptions when looking his direction. If the Giants can't iron out those issues, they might have to demote him back into some kind of simplified third-receiver role.

James Jones, Raiders. How is it that Jones spent 8 years in Green Bay, playing with Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers, yet eked out over 800 yards only once? He caught 59 passes for 817 yards and 3 TDs last year. We see him as pretty much interchangeable with teammate Denarius Moore, who shows up eight spots higher on our board (lots of comparable receivers after the middle rounds).

Jermaine Kearse, Seahawks. Seattle has Percy Harvin, Doug Baldwin and Sidney Rice, but Kearse might be their best downfield receiver. He caught a 43-yard game-winning touchdown at Carolina, and he came on in the playoffs, catching a 35-yard game-winner on fourth down in the NFC Championship and catching another touchdown in the Super Bowl. He's probably better than Rice, he might make a run at Baldwin, and Harvin tends to get hurt.

Robert Woods, Bills. Woods looked pretty good at the start of his rookie year. He scored a couple of touchdowns, and he caught a pair of balls when isolated against Joe Haden in a Thursday night game at Cleveland. Then the injuries started setting in and the passing game fell apart. He has some upside potential, but it's not even certain he'll be one of the two best wide receivers on his own team – Buffalo drafted Sammy Watkins and traded for Mike Williams.

Steve Smith, Ravens. Receivers from six teams have byes in Week 4, including A.J. Green, Larry Fitzgerald and Demaryius Thomas. If you select any of those pass catchers as starters, it makes sense in the late rounds to add Smith as a backup. Baltimore hosts Carolina on that Sunday, and you know Smith will be jacked up and ready to roll for that game. Unlikely to be of much value on a week-to-week basis, however; Baltimore won't put up big numbers and has a lot of other pass catchers.

Kelvin Benjamin, Panthers. Late in the first round, Carolina went for size to replenish its receiving corps, but we're skeptical. Too many times over the years, we've seen big, slow receivers figure out that the defensive backs are a lot bigger, faster and better at the pro level. J.J. Stokes, Reggie Williams and Mike Williams were all top-10 picks. They looked like better versions of Benjamin. They all washed out. But Benjamin is worth a late-round flier in case we're wrong. Cam Newton could try to utilize that height around the goal line. "You can't teach 6-5, 230 with 34-inch arm length and 10-inch hands," says GM Dave Gettleman. "This guy has unusual ball skills; He's got what we call a very big strike zone."

Odell Beckham Jr., Giants. The Giants selected him 12th in the draft, so they're obviously high on him, but that's a coaching staff that likes to bring its wide receivers along slowly. Rueben Randle, Mario Manningham and Steve Smith (no, the other Steve Smith) all hardly played as rookies. Hakeem Nicks was a third receiver in his first year, running a limited route tree and supplementing Smith and Manningham. Beckham should be used in that same kind of role, as well as returning kicks. Beckham wasn't even the most productive receiver on his college team last year; Jarvis Landry caught 18 more passes and 2 more touchdowns.

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Eddie Royal, Chargers. There's something to be said for veterans who know what they're doing. Royal caught 70 percent of the passes thrown to him last year, 3rd-best among wide receivers. And he did it despite battling a turf-toe injury for over half of the season. But there's not a lot of big-play ability there. Royal caught 5 TDs in the first two weeks last year, but just 3 in his final 15 games including the playoffs.

Andre Roberts, Washington. Washington signed him to a four-year contract including \$8 million in guaranteed money. The plan was for him to start opposite Pierre Garcon. Then Philadelphia released DeSean Jackson, sending Daniel Snyder running for his checkbook. Now Roberts projects to be an overpaid No. 3 receiver. Jay Gruden uses plenty of three-receiver sets, but tough to envision Roberts catching 50 passes or 6 TDs.

Harry Douglas, Falcons. There were 23 wide receivers who went over 1,000 yards last year. Here's the last of them. Julio Jones and Roddy White are healthy, and that will slash Douglas' role in the passing game. He caught only 38 passes for 395 yards and one touchdown in the 2012 season.

Mike Williams, Bills. Williams has some talent. He had seasons with 11 and 9 touchdowns in Tampa Bay. At 6-foot-2 and 212 pounds, he's got some ability to jump up and pull down high passes in a crowd. But he drove the Bucs crazy with his off-field shenanigans. They were happy to just give him away. If Williams matures and works on his game harder, he could re-emerge as a viable pass catcher, but the Bills have a pair of other talented young receivers (Sammy Watkins and Robert Woods).

Miles Austin, Browns. The Browns might be missing Josh Gordon for the entire season, so somebody there will need to catch some balls. Austin looks slightly less unappealing than the other two old, slow ineffective receivers they've brought in. Austin, Earl Bennett and Nate Burleson. Probably one of those receivers will catch about 55 passes for 650 yards and 4 TDs.

Nate Washington, Titans. We're slotting him third among Tennessee's wide receivers, but we'll concede we could be falling prey to the natural tendency to overvalue young, up-and-coming receivers. Washington is a pretty solid deep threat. He's averaged 16.0 yards per catch over the last two years, 5th-best among players with at least 100 catches. Of all wide receivers who were the intended target on at least 100 balls last year, Washington was the only one who didn't drop a pass. (But, yeah, we have no interest in drafting him.)

Jarrett Boykin, Packers. Boykin started 10 games last year. In that role he was on pace for 74 catches, 1,008 yards and 6 TDs. But Randall Cobb is healthy again, and that will knock Boykin down a spot in the pecking order – he's a distant No. 3 behind Cobb and Nelson. Only if one of those guys gets injured should Boykin make a real impact.

Marqise Lee, Jaguars. As a sophomore at Southern Cal, Lee looked like a potential franchise receiver, catching 118 passes for 1,721 yards and 14 touchdowns. He tailed off as a junior, but there was a lot of team dysfunction and he played half the year with a knee injury (he missed three games entirely). Lee doesn't have special size (6-0, 195) and ran only 4.47 at the combine, but a lot of teams could regret letting Jacksonville get him early in the second round.

Chris Givens, Rams. Givens is a great deep threat. He had that incredible streak as a rookie where he had a 50-yard catch five games in a row. But he doesn't have the hands or route-running ability to run the other routes. The Rams tried to pass him the ball 5 times last year when they were inside the 10, and he didn't catch any of them. In a perfect world, they'd trade him to New Orleans, and he could be one of those outside receivers making a big play every 2-3 weeks for Drew Brees.

Tight Ends

Passing numbers keep going up every year, and it's tight ends that are accounting for most of the growth. Over the last 10 years, teams are averaging 5 more touchdown passes per game, and tight ends have accounted for 65 percent of that increase.

It's crazy. Back in 2003, teams averaged 4.1 touchdown passes to tight ends. Moving forward 10 years, that's climbed to 7.4 touchdowns. Coupled with an extra 285 yards, tight end production is up by 59 percent. In the same time period, wide receiver production has risen only 14 percent, while running backs have actually declined a little.

Part of this can be attributed to teams moving away from fullbacks. More teams are using two tight ends, and they're catching more of those dumpoff passes. But there are also simply more athletic, playmaking tight ends than ever before. If you look at the Nos. 8, 12, and 15 tight ends from last year versus 10 years ago, the numbers tend to be about 60 percent better.

For fantasy purposes the floor has moved. It's possible to get a good, functional tight end in the late rounds, and some solid tight ends won't be selected at all. In our eyes, we see three elite tight ends at the top (four if Rob Gronkowski is healthy) and one more who looks very solid. After that, there's not much difference between the next dozen prospects, so it becomes a position better addressed in the later rounds.

1 Difference makers. That's the name of the game in fantasy drafts. You're looking for players who'll be a lot better than the others at their position. And by that definition, **Jimmy Graham** should be a first-round pick in every league. He looks certain to be a lot better than all of the other tight ends.

In our eyes, Graham might be 300 yards and 3 TDs better than every other tight end, and he should be 500 yards and 5 TDs better than the majority of starters in typical fantasy leagues most weeks. There's an almost bottomless pit of acceptable tight ends who'll be available in the late rounds of drafts, so no fantasy teams will go hungry at this position, but Graham provides a big edge over those guys.

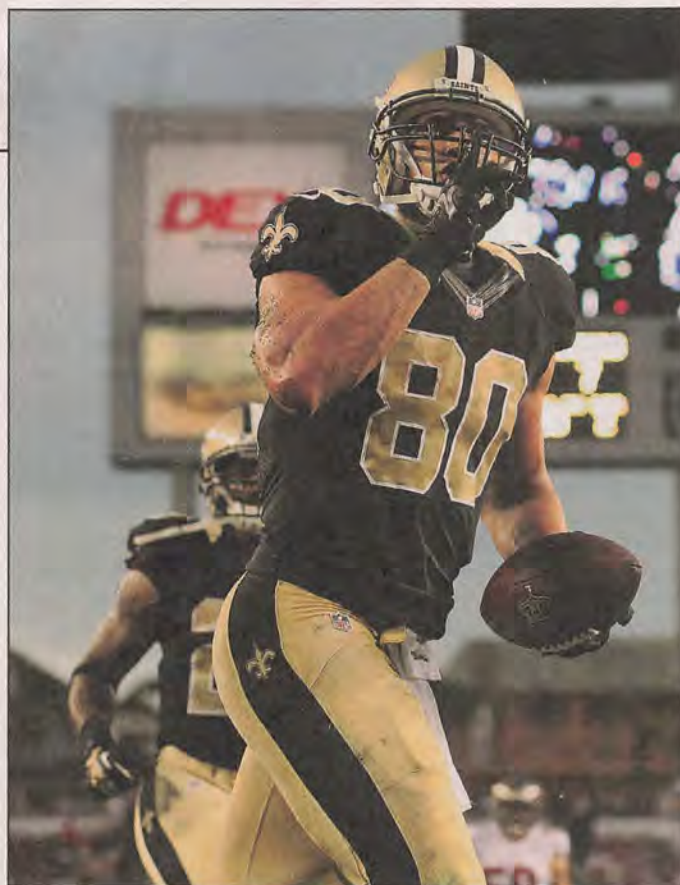
We'll concede that Graham wasn't special in 2012, when he dropped 12 passes and caught only 9 TDs, but he played most of that season with a wrist injury that required offseason surgery. He also slipped down the stretch last year, averaging only 52 yards in his final 10 games, with 6 TDs. We'll attribute that to scheduling, with six of those games against Seattle (twice), Carolina (twice), San Francisco and New England (with Aqib Talib in top form).

The Saints have a Hall of Fame quarterback and the league's most consistent passing game. Three years in a row, they've averaged over 320 passing yards and thrown at least 39 touchdown passes. Jimmy Graham is the main cog in that receiving corps, especially around the goal line. With that kind of role, he's the only tight end in the league with a realistic chance of finishing with 1,100-plus yards and a dozen touchdowns.

2 It's a huge drop down to **Julius Thomas**. In our eyes, the statistical gap between the top 2 tight ends is larger than the spread between Thomas and the guys at the bottom of our top 10. Thomas simply isn't in Graham's league.

There's some talent there, of course. Like Graham, Tony Gonzalez and Antonio Gates, Thomas also is a converted college basketball player who creates rebounder-type matchup problems. He's fast enough that he scored a 74-yard touchdown last year, the longest by any tight end.

But the Broncos don't use Thomas like the Saints use Graham. He averaged 20 fewer yards per game last year, and he didn't get half as many targets around the goal line. Thomas caught only 12 of Denver's 55 TD passes, while Graham caught 16 of New Orleans' 39. Peyton Manning easily could slip down to 35 touchdowns, and when that happens, Thomas might wind up with only 8-9 TDs.



CLIFF WELCH/ICON SM

Jimmy Graham is enough of a difference-maker that he could be selected in the first rounds of fantasy drafts.

The hope with Thomas is that he benefits from now having a year of experience as a starter. And Eric Decker signed with the Jets; maybe that translates into a few more chances. But our expectation is Thomas will wind up with maybe 900 yards and 9 TDs – an elite tight end, but not up there with Graham.

3 If and when he's healthy, **Rob Gronkowski** is the one tight end who might outproduce Jimmy Graham. He's averaged 5 more yards per game over the last three years, with 33 TDs in 34 games. Graham has scored only 3 more touchdowns while playing in 13 more games.

But Gronkowski is coming off a torn ACL, and it doesn't look realistic to count on seeing him in September. He hurried back from a broken forearm two years ago, re-breaking it in his first game back, and he was careful not to repeat that error last year, missing the first six games when it looked like he maybe could have returned a month sooner. He might even begin the year on the PUP list.

Being sidelined for the offseason probably also will affect his role and effectiveness. Gronkowski caught only 59 percent of the passes thrown his way last year, down from 71 percent in his first two seasons. So rather than averaging about 80 yards and a touchdown per game, it's more realistic to look for maybe 70 yards, with about 3 TDs every four weeks.

There's unprecedented depth at tight end, however, and that makes it more viable to select Gronkowski early. There are plenty of fairly productive warm-body tight ends who won't even be selected in fantasy drafts. If you combo maybe a month of starts from one of those guys and get 12 games out of Gronkowski, that's probably a top-3 tight end package.

4 **Vernon Davis** is the most unusual tight end in the league. He's the only player at this position who's caught over half of his team's touchdown passes in a season (and he's done it twice). Yet at the same time, he catches fewer passes than any of the other elite tight ends.

Davis has averaged only 2.9 catches per game over the last two years. All of the other top 40 tight ends in this century average at least a catch more per game, and over half of those guys average over 2 more catches. It's weird.

But Davis is weird. Probably the fastest player ever at this position, so they use him differently. Most tight ends tend to catch shorter balls underneath, trying to settle into the soft spots in zones. With Davis, he's used more like a speed receiver, running vertical routes. He averaged 16.3 yards per catch last year, with 3 TDs over 50 yards.

It's unconventional, and that makes us nervous. The 49ers will have Michael Crabtree for a full season this year. Recall that he was the team's big scorer in 2012 (when Davis caught only 5 TDs). They also have Anquan Boldin. There could be a reshuffling of the playbook, with Davis getting fewer of those key throws.

5 Greg Olsen isn't a franchise tight end. He's not a matchup nightmare like Jimmy Graham or Rob Gronkowski. He doesn't have Vernon Davis' speed or Jason Witten's feel for getting open. He's never going to catch 85 passes and 9 TDs in a season.

But Olsen is one of the better tight ends, and he's a guy Cam Newton will look for. Steve Smith, Brandon LaFell and Ted Ginn are all gone, so Olsen is their only returning pass catcher. He's been a big part of their offense anyway; over the last two years, only three tight ends have more catches and yards.

Olsen probably will be their main option around the end zone, but he hasn't been particularly effective in that part of the field. He's caught only 7 of 16 passes inside the 10 over the last two years, with 5 TDs. Newton seems to be only an average passer in that part of the field, and Olsen looks pretty ordinary in terms of making contested catches. He's scored only 5 and 6 touchdowns the last two years.

Ultimately, Olsen probably won't be a top-5 tight end. But he looks like a very safe choice to at least finish in the top 8. He's averaged 71 catches and 830 yards the last two years, and he's been remarkably durable, playing 110 straight games.

6 It might sound strange, but we don't consider **Jason Witten** to be an elite tight end. He's been in that group for years, but he's 32 now and the Cowboys are changing their offense. They've brought in Scott Linehan, and they're probably going to work in Gavin Escobar as a second pass-catching tight end.

Witten usually isn't much of a scorer. He caught a respectable 8 touchdowns last year, but he scored more than 5 TDs in only one of his previous five seasons (and he played all 16 games in all of those years). He's not a guy they tend to use much in the red zone.

Not that Witten doesn't have value. He has a strong rapport with Romo, catching at least 94 passes in three of his last five seasons – including 110 two years ago. But his role should decline, and he also might be slowing down. Witten caught only 73 passes last year, and he seemed to be headed for the mid-60s until coming up with 12 catches in the final game.

Witten is more palatable in a PPR format. In other leagues, he'll probably be the most overdrafted of the top tight ends. In our eyes, Witten was never in the mix to be a top-5 tight end, and he doesn't look a whole lot better than the next seven tight ends on the board.

7 We might be ranking **Jordan Cameron** too low. With his hands, speed and route-running ability, he's probably one of the top 5 pass-catching tight ends in the game. He piled up 80 catches, 917 yards and 7 TDs last year, with a drop rate that was the 3rd-best among starting tight ends last year (just 2 in 118 targets).

But Cleveland has a new coaching staff and a new offense, and it will pass a lot less this year. The Browns attempted a league-high 681 passes last year, helping them finish with a top-10 passing offense.

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With more conservative play calling, they'll probably have a bottom-10 passing game this year.

Cameron is also learning that it's harder to put up good numbers after defenses start game-planning for you. They start figuring out which routes need to be taken away. He caught 30 passes and 5 TDs in his first four games last year, but Cameron in his final 11 games caught only 50 passes and 2 TDs.

That later-season version of Cameron is probably more similar to what we'll see this year. He'll be a big part of their passing game, and he'll probably be their main guy around the goal line. He's way better than all of their wide receivers. But with the Browns getting a lot more conservative, Cameron's ceiling is probably about 70 catches and 6 TDs.

8 Kyle Rudolph comes off a lousy year, but let's not get too distracted focusing on what happened last season. He's one of the best tight ends in the league, he's healthy now, and they'll get him back on track.

The Vikings had Christian Ponder at quarterback for most of last year; that was probably Rudolph's No. 1 problem. When they put Matt Cassel at quarterback, Rudolph had his best game of the season, catching 9 passes for 97 yards and a touchdown against Carolina. Rudolph missed the second half of the season with a broken foot.

Rudolph showed two years ago that he's one of the best goal-line receivers in the league. He caught 9 of 10 passes inside the 10-yard line that year, all for scores. With huge hands and superb hand-eye coordination, he's one of the best at pulling down contested balls in traffic.

The Vikings are bringing in Norv Turner to serve as their offensive coordinator, and that's a plus. Turner was in Cleveland last year and made good use of Jordan Cameron, who's a Rudolph-type tight end. Turner's last four offenses have thrown 12, 7, 10 and 9 touchdown passes to tight ends.

9 Charles Clay serves a reminder that preseason injuries aren't necessarily a big deal. The Dolphins had big plans for Dustin Keller, who blew out his knee in a preseason game, but it turns out Clay is better anyway. It's not quite Kurt Warner and Trent Green, but Clay looks like one of the league's better tight ends.

Like Vernon Davis and Delanie Walker, Clay is short for a tight end. At 6-foot-3, he also plays some fullback. But Clay is also mobile like those guys, and they'll get the ball in his hands. He caught 69 passes last year, with 6 touchdowns plus another touchdown on a running play (they line him up as a fullback in short-yardage, giving him an occasional goal-line attempt).

Because of the unconventional way they use him, Clay is tough to track around the end zone. Inside the 10 last year, he caught 7 of the 9 passes they threw to him, with 4 TDs. Only Danny Woodhead caught a higher percentage of passes in that part of the field.

Miami's new offensive coordinator, Bill Lazor, is making some changes to the offense, which is a slight concern. Maybe Clay won't get quite as many looks, especially around the goal line. But Lazor comes from the Eagles, and their tight ends last year combined for 11 touchdowns. Clay should sneak into the top 10 at tight end.

10 Jericho Cotchery and Emmanuel Sanders signed free agent contracts with other teams, and that could help make **Heath Miller** the bounce-back tight end of the year. He's been a very good goal-line receiver, but he was coming off an ACL reconstruction last season. That contributed to Cotchery and Sanders getting those looks last year, and they combined for 11 touchdowns inside the 10.

Miller can be just as good on those plays. Two years ago, he caught an NFL-high 10 passes in that part of the field, including 7 TDs and a 2-point conversion. The Steelers haven't used him as extensively as a goal-line option in previous years; in only two of his last six seasons has Miller scored more than 3 TDs.

Tight Ends

Miller isn't a threat to catch 70 passes. In only one of his last four seasons has he even caught 60. But he has a nice rapport with Ben Roethlisberger. Miller caught 74 percent of the balls thrown his way last year, 2nd-best among tight ends. He was in the top 10 the previous two seasons.

Age is a concern; Miller is 32, and he's definitely slowing down. He averaged a career-low 10.2 yards per catch last year, with only one touchdown. He can't get downfield anymore, and he's played all 16 games only once in the last four years. Miller had to take a pay cut to avoid being released in the offseason.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

If you're looking for a breakout tight end – this year's Julius Thomas or Jordan Cameron – **Zach Ertz** is the first name to consider. He's got good receiving ability, and they started using him more late in his rookie year. Ertz caught only 14 passes, with no touchdowns, in the first half of the season. He caught 25 passes and 5 TDs in his final nine games.

The Eagles also will use Brent Celek at tight end, but Ertz seems to have better receiving ability. He could be their primary option around the goal line, and he'll probably be utilized on more downfield routes. Philadelphia released DeSean Jackson, so it will need others to pick up the slack in the passing game. Ertz caught 69 passes and 6 TDs his final year at Stanford.

Martellus Bennett isn't a big part of Chicago's offense. The Bears ranked 7th in passing last year, yet 20 teams completed more passes to tight ends. And Bennett caught only 5 of the team's 32 touchdown passes; only one team (Pittsburgh) completed a lower percentage of touchdowns to tight ends. After a quick start, Bennett caught only 2 TDs in his final 14 games last season.

But Chicago is one of the few teams that uses just one tight end. So while the team numbers project to be average at best, at least it's just one guy – Bennett – who's accounting for all of that production. Bennett finished with 65 catches, 759 yards and 5 TDs last year, making him one of the top dozen tight ends in typical formats.

Dennis Pitta missed most of last year with a hip injury, but he's healthy now, and he's been Joe Flacco's security blanket in recent years. In his last 16 games, Pitta has caught 65 passes for 625 yards and 9 TDs. If he can keep that kind of pace going, we'll have ranked him a half-dozen spots too low.

Our concern is that the Ravens are reworking their offense. They've signed Owen Daniels and Steve Smith, and they're both sure-handed veterans who can catch the same kind of short balls as Pitta. They also need to get Flacco back on track; if he throws only 19 TD passes again, Pitta will have no chance of catching 8-9 touchdowns.

It would be going too far to call **Jared Cook** a workout warrior. He caught 51 passes and 5 TDs last year. But his on-field play has never come close to equaling the kind of numbers he can put up in workouts. Other than Vernon Davis and maybe Ladarius Green, Cook might be the fastest tight end in the league.

But Cook doesn't have a great feel for the position. He's not a good route runner and he has below-average hands. He dropped 6 passes last year, 2 more than any other tight end in the league. He's not a guy they'll isolate around the end zone, throwing him lob passes knowing that he'll simply outfight the defender for the ball. About 50 catches and 5 TDs is probably his ceiling.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Ladarius Green, Chargers. At 6-foot-6 and with 4.5 speed, Green is a younger version of Jared Cook. He averaged 22.1 yards per catch, the highest by any tight end in the last 20 years (among guys

averaging at least a catch per game). Mike McCoy admits they should have used him more. But we're slotting Green as just a later-round gamble pick. At only 240 pounds, he doesn't block well enough to be used as a regular tight end; he must be used more as an H-back. And only if they try to utilize that height around the goal line will he have a chance of catching 6 TDs. He had one of those touchdowns in the playoff win at Cincinnati, but in the regular season they didn't throw him a single pass all year when they were inside the 10.

Eric Ebron, Lions. Ebron showed some ability to make downfield catches at North Carolina. He averaged 15.7 yards per catch last year. In the last 20 years, only two tight ends selected with first-round picks have averaged more yards per catch in their final year in college, and they both had great careers – Dallas Clark and Tony Gonzalez. But Ebron isn't particularly big (6-4, 250), and he wasn't a good red zone receiver in college. His team threw 57 touchdown passes the last two years, and he caught only 7 of them.

Coby Fleener, Colts. Fleener is entering his third year, so it's time to shelve the notion that he'll somehow benefit from having worked with Andrew Luck at Stanford. Fleener has caught only 58 percent of the passes they've thrown to him over the last two years, last among tight ends with at least 100 pass plays. The Colts were missing Reggie Wayne for the second half of last year, giving Fleener every opportunity to step up and be a go-to type option in their passing game, yet he caught only 27 passes and one touchdown in those eight games.

Jordan Reed, Washington. Reed has good pass-catching skills. In the six games he started last year, he was on pace to finish with over 1,000 yards. He caught 75 percent of the passes thrown to him, No. 1 among tight ends. But let's see what the new coaching staff thinks of him. They've got him listed at 225 pounds at the team website, which is more of a wide receiver than a tight end. Washington has Pierre Garcon, DeSean Jackson and Andre Roberts, so plenty of pass catchers in that offense already.

Garrett Graham, Texans. When Owen Daniels missed most of last season, Houston's other former Wisconsin tight end filled in and played surprisingly well, catching 49 passes and 5 TDs in 13 games. He caught only 53 percent of the passes thrown in his direction, next-to-last among regular tight ends, but he was no doubt influenced by suspect quarterbacking. Graham says the new coaching staff intends to utilize him as an H-back; at 6-foot-3 and 244 pounds, he's on the small side to be a regular in-line tight end.

Brent Celek, Eagles. As with teammate Zach Ertz, Celek got a lot better after the Eagles plugged Nick Foles into the lineup. In the first half of the season, Celek caught only 14 passes and 2 TDs. In the final nine games (including the playoffs) he caught 20 passes and 4 TDs. Celek isn't particularly athletic but runs more downfield routes than most tight ends; he averaged 15.7 yards per catch last year, 2nd-best among tight ends.

Jermichael Finley. Finley suffered a pair of troubling neck injuries last year. It's possible that no doctor will clear him. But he's supposedly progressing nicely, and the Packers indicate it's their intention to re-sign him. The Patriots also have had him in for a look. Over the past three years, he's been a top-10 player at this position, averaging 47 yards, with 13 TDs in 37 games.

Delanie Walker, Titans. The Titans have a new coaching staff and a new offense, which should reduce Walker's role. Dexter McCaster, for example, was brought in to be a pass-catching third-down back. Walker caught a lot of those kind of balls last year. And we don't think Walker will be used as prominently in the red zone; at 6-foot, he's the shortest tight end in the league, making him a less desirable target in that part of the field.

Kickers

Nothing will happen this year, but the league is mulling whether to change extra points. The two main options seem to be to move them back 18 yards, or to simply get rid of them – making touchdowns worth 7 points.

Either change will alter fantasy football as we know it.

Eliminate extra points, and this becomes a far more volatile position; gone will be the trusty strategy of selecting kickers from the best teams. With no PATs, a team could win 35-0 or 42-0, and the kicker would score nothing. (We'd also likely see some fantasy leagues increasing touchdowns to 7 points.)

If the line of scrimmage on extra points is moved back to the 20 (something they'll experiment with in the preseason) the value of good kickers would increase. At 37-38 yards (especially with the game on the line) those are no longer gimmes. You'd see more teams making a bigger effort to ensure they had a steady, reliable leg -- think Phil Dawson and Robbie Gould.

With the current rules, there were only 5 missed extra points all of last year (with one miss in a snowstorm) but teams converted only 88 percent of field goals from 35 to 40 yards. At this distance, some coaches would be nervous to send out a struggling kicker to tie a game in the last minute. And weather conditions would cause more teams to attempt 2-point conversions late in the year.

For the rankings this time around, we're tending to gravitate toward the better teams and the better offenses. Games are won by scoring points, and that requires the kicker to be on the field more often. In league history, 18 kickers have scored at least 145 points in a season, and all but two of them played for teams that won at least 11 games.

1 Few fantasy leaguers will consider using a mid-round pick on a kicker, but with **Stephen Gostkowski**, it makes sense to think about it. It's reasonable to conclude a 125-point kicker can be found in the last round or off the waiver wire; some unheralded guy gets hot every year. But Gostkowski is one of the few with a great chance to score another 20-plus points beyond that.

Gostkowski has the requisite power and accuracy; he's one of the better kickers around. And he's working with an offense that would make any kicker look good. He's the first kicker to score over 140 points three years in a row, and the Patriots have ranked in the top 7 in kicking points seven years in a row – they've been in the top 3 in all but two of those seasons.

We're not promising another 158 points. Gostkowski benefited last year when the offense struggled in the red zone; he'll kick fewer field goals and more extra points this season. We also don't think he'll attempt as many long field goals. He was 5 of 6 from 50-plus last year, but he attempted only 10 of those field goals (7 successful) in his first seven seasons combined.

But while there's luck and chance involved with kickers, the odds are stacked in your favor when you've got Gostkowski. He's gone over 140 points in half of his eight seasons. Only one other active kicker has done it more than once. After the notable backs and receivers are off the board, it makes sense to start thinking about Gostkowski.

2 It was in Cleveland where **Phil Dawson** proved his greatness. In 14 years on the uneven sod in that stadium, he hit 85 percent of his field goals. In those same games, opposing kickers converted under 78 percent. Range, accuracy and coolness under pressure – he's just a notch better than most of the kickers in the league.

Now that Dawson is coupled with one of the most kicker-friendly offenses in the league, he's getting more chances to show off his skills. Since Jim Harbaugh showed up, the 49ers have attempted 17 more



Stephen Gostkowski is the first kicker in league history to go over 140 points three seasons in a row.

field goals than any other team, helping them score 437 kicking points, the 2nd-highest three-year total in NFL history (behind the previously mentioned Patriots).

Dawson is 39, but he's not showing any signs of losing any leg strength. They let him try a 71-yarder last year, and he's converted 18 of his other 20 field goals from 50-plus over the last three years.

As we see it, the only slight flaw is that the 49ers have tended to score more touchdowns (and fewer field goals) since Colin Kaepernick replaced Alex Smith. The team's field goal attempts have dropped from 52 to 42 to 36 the last three years. But Dawson scored a league-high 86 points in the second half of last season, and he's one of the few with a realistic chance of going over 140.

3 A couple of very good kickers came out of the 2012 draft – Blair Walsh and Greg Zuerlein – but in hindsight **Justin Tucker** (who wasn't even selected) should have been drafted before both of them. He's converted 92 percent of his field goals in his first two seasons, including some pressure kicks. He won the Monday night game in Detroit last year with a 61-yarder with no time left, and he kicked a 47-yarder in overtime in the playoff win at Denver his rookie year.

Tucker doesn't hit the ball with quite as much power as Walsh or Zuerlein, but he's been more accurate than those guys, even on longer kicks. He's 10 of 11 from 50-plus yards in his first two years. And it's not as if he has a weak leg; he's above-average on kickoffs.

Key for any kicker is the cast around him, and Tucker has that. The Ravens attempted 41 field goals last year, tying New England for most in the league, and they tend to heavily use their kicker every year. Baltimore is one of only four teams that's scored 130-plus kicking points three years in a row. Tucker scored a league-high 44 percent of his team's points last year.

Kickers

4 Mile High altitude and Peyton Manning. These are nice assets to tap into, so add **Matt Prater** to the short list of kickers who's worth selecting before the big run on the position occurs at the end of most drafts. He's scored more points than every kicker except Stephen Gostkowski over the last two years.

Prater doesn't have a particularly strong leg. In games away from Mile High, his touchback numbers over the last two years are actually below average. But playing in thin air for half the season, he's more likely than others to convert long field goals. He's gone 12 of 15 from 50-plus yards over the last three years.

Any time Manning is running an offense, that kicker will be busy. Of Manning's last 10 teams, 60 percent of them have ranked in the top 5 in kicking points. All but two of them have at least finished in the top 10. Prater attempted only 26 field goals last year, but with a league-high 75 extra points, he was able to finish with 150 points.

5 There's very little difference between **Steven Hauschka** and the four kickers we've ranked ahead of him. In real-life kicking ability, he might be better than all of those guys. Including the playoffs, he's hit 68 of 73 field goals the last two years, with one of the misses from 61 yards. He's awfully precise, and he plays on a deep team that looks like it might just roll to another Lombardi.

But it's not easy playing with a target on your back. Every team gets up for its shot at the champ, and Seattle's in a tough division loaded with good defenses. In this century, only 5 of 14 Super Bowl winners have won their division the next year. Injuries occur. Things change.

Hauschka should face more wind and rain issues than most kickers, and that makes kicks from long range more problematic. He was 3 for 3 from 50-plus last year, but he went only 3 of 8 from that range over the previous two seasons. Splitting hairs between these elite prospects, that's enough to drop him down to 5th.

6 It's a step down to **Mason Crosby**, but he's also too promising to be left unselected until the final round. If Aaron Rodgers hadn't snapped his collarbone in that Monday night game against the Bears, he might have led the league in scoring last year. He scored 83 points in eight games with Rodgers, but just 58 in the other eight, when they were struggling at quarterback.

Crosby isn't as accurate as the other top kicking prospects. They were mulling whether to release him two years ago, when he made only 21 of 33 field goals – the worst full season by a kicker in the last four years. But he rebounded to hit 33 of 37 last year, and he's just hitting 30, which are prime years for a kicker.

Mostly, it's about the offense. As long as Rodgers stays healthy, the Packers will move the ball up and down the field, keeping Crosby busy. He's scored 140-plus points three times; Gostkowski is the only other active kicker who's reached that plateau more than once.

7 Strategies vary from league to league, but in rough terms, **Adam Vinatieri** appears to be the last kicker who's valuable enough to perhaps select before the last round. He's 41, but he's still accurate enough and has the benefit of playing half of his games indoors. Only seven teams scored more kicking points last year.

Vinatieri has lost some leg strength, but that's not a huge deal. The Colts have Pat McAfee to handle kickoffs, and Vinatieri still has enough pop to eke out some long kicks. Two years in a row he's hit four field goals from 50-plus, though that kind of production looks unlikely (in his previous nine years combined, Vinatieri went only 4 of 12 from that range).

The draw here is Andrew Luck and an emerging young offense. The Colts should have some success moving the ball, but they won't necessarily be one of the best teams at capping those drives with touchdowns. This was one of only eight offenses last year to produce more field goal attempts (40) than touchdowns (38).

8 We can all be inspired by the persistence of **Nick Novak**. He kicked his first NFL football in 2005, and he's been on various rosters for years, including the Florida Tuskers and the Cologne Centurions. It wasn't until last year that he finally played a full 16-game season for the first time.

It was his accuracy that finally won the San Diego Chargers over. Novak has hit 52 of 57 field goals over the last two years. Pair that accuracy with the league's most surprising offense last season, and the result was 144 points, 3rd-most among kickers.

Now he's just got to keep it up. They've also got to figure out if there's any way they can strengthen his leg. He had a league-low 18 touchbacks last year, making things harder on the coverage teams. He managed to convert both of his 50-yard field goals, but he's far less likely to hit long kicks than most of the other kickers around the league.

9 **Robbie Gould** is one of the loudest critics of the proposal to move extra points back 18 yards, and that's weird. He's one of the guys who'd benefit the most from such a rule. It would give him another avenue to show how much better he is than the vast majority of other players at this position.

As it stands now, almost every kicker in the league (even guys like Randy Bullock and Billy Cundiff) will make all of their extra points. If and when they move them back, Gould will miss fewer PATs than Chicago's opponents every year, just making it more obvious how good he really is.

Whether Gould ranks among the scoring leaders is completely dependent on Chicago's offense. He won't miss more than a handful of kicks all year. But under Marc Trestman, the Bears should be one of the better teams at scoring touchdowns rather than field goals, and that works against him. Six years in a row, Chicago has ranked between 14th and 16th in kicker scoring, averaging 117 points.

10 **Mike Nugent** was a bottom-10 kicker last year, scoring only 106 points. He's below-average on field goals, and he really struggles from long range – he's one of the few active kickers who's hit fewer than half of his career attempts from 50-plus yards. He's been a top-15 kicker, in fact, only once since the Jets unwisely selected him in second round in 2005.

But with kickers, it's less about the individual and more about the team around him. And in this case, Cincinnati is loaded with offensive weapons and comes off an 11-win season. Forget about Nugent's personal flaws (which aren't statistically significant); this is the type of team that should score 130-plus kicking points, and that's how it played out in each of the two seasons prior to last year.

Nugent didn't score enough last year largely because the Bengals were unusually good at finishing drives with touchdowns – one of only four offenses in the last three years to put up over twice as many touchdowns as field goal attempts. But it's a new season now, offensive coordinator Jay Gruden is gone, and things change. Nugent will bang in a lot more three-pointers, maybe moving up into the top 5 in scoring.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

The league is oversaturated with great kickers right now, but **Dan Bailey** can make a case that he's the best of all of them. He's been the most accurate on field goals, hitting 57 of 61 the last two years, with all but one of the misses from outside 50 yards – damn near perfect. His leg strength is only average, but he's converted 9 field goals of 50-plus over the last two years.

The rankings here, however, aren't based on ability but production – how many points they'll score – and Bailey plays for the Cowboys. They've finished 8-8 in each of his three seasons, and they'll probably get worse before they get better. Despite his accuracy, Bailey has ranked only 10th and 9th in scoring the last two years, and a drop of a few spots seems like the most likely outcome.

Shaun Suisham is the cold-weather version of Nick Novak. Other teams have given up on him, and his leg really isn't strong enough. Only 55 percent of his kickoffs reached the end zone last year (only one other team finished under 70 percent). In his last six seasons, Suisham is only 3 of 10 on attempts from 50-plus yards.

But like Novak, Suisham is very reliable on field goals; only two kickers have been more accurate over the last two years. If the Steelers can get back on track and reclaim the AFC North, he could make a move up into the top 10. The team has ranked 15th and 11th in kicking the last two years, averaging 124 points.

If NFL teams were drafting them, there isn't one that wouldn't select **Blair Walsh** before at least half of the dozen we've ranked ahead of him. He's converted 90 percent of his field goals in his first two years, and he's unusually good from distance. He went 10 for 10 from 50-plus yards in his first season.

But the Vikings will be playing outdoors at the University of Minnesota's stadium for the next two years, and that will affect Walsh's range and accuracy in at least some games. They easily could play multiple games in snow or temperatures under 20 degrees. Walsh is from Boca Raton, and you have to wonder how he'll adjust. He was erratic his final season at Georgia, converting only 21 of 35 field goals.

Greg Zuerlein has such a strong leg that they've given him two nicknames – "Legatron" and "Greg the Leg." He put a league-high 96 percent of his kickoffs in the end zone last year (all but three of them). Based in a dome, he's as likely as anyone to hit a kick from 60-plus this season.

The highest-scoring kickers, however, tend to come from teams that win 11-plus games and march up and down the field. That's not the Rams. They're stuck in the NFC West, where all three of the other franchises last year not only won 10-plus games but also ranked in the top 7 defensively.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Alex Henery, Eagles. Considering Philadelphia selected him in the fourth round, Henery has been a mild disappointment. His accuracy has declined every year, and he doesn't have a power leg. Only five teams put a lower percentage of kickoffs in the end zone last year, and in three seasons he's just 2 of 5 on kicks of 50-plus yards. He's also stuck in an offense that put up 23 more touchdowns than field goal attempts last year. Henery should be a middle-of-the-pack scorer but doesn't look particularly likely to push his way into the top 10.

Ryan Succop, Kansas City. Succop looks like an average prospect. Kansas City is an 8-8 type team, and he's nothing special in terms of power or accuracy. He's converted under 80 percent of his field goals over the last four years, better than only five kickers (and three of those guys might not even land jobs this year – David Akers, Garrett Hartley and Billy Cundiff). When Kansas City tailed off last year, only two teams scored fewer kicking points during the final eight weeks of the season.

Caleb Sturgis, Dolphins. With young kickers, it's best to hang tight and give them time to get comfortable. Sturgis embarrassed the team when he missed five more field goals than the guy he replaced (Dan Carpenter), but nobody in Miami is getting buyer's remorse. Sturgis is a lot better on kickoffs (only five teams put a higher percentage in the end zone), and he'll get the accuracy dialed in. He was better in the second half of the season. He's also about \$2 million cheaper this year.

Nick Folk, Jets. In recent seasons, it's been fair to wonder why Folk was even in the league. Prior to last year, he was under 78 percent on field goals four years in a row. But he's got plenty of job security now. He went 33 of 36 last year, with three game-winners and a respectable 126 points. He either got really lucky last year, or (more

likely) he's just gotten more confident and knowledgeable with experience. The Jets have added some much-needed weapons, giving Folk a decent chance of being an above-average scorer again.

Shayne Graham, Saints. Skipping ahead to early September, let's put the kicker for this team at 7th on the board. We're just not sure it will be Graham. He missed a couple of big field goals in the playoff loss at Seattle. He's 36, and a bunch of other teams have looked to get rid of him over the years (he's played for 10 different franchises). His leg isn't strong enough, but the Saints should be willing to live with that, since they have Thomas Morstead to handle kickoffs. If not for Garrett Hartley's accuracy problems, New Orleans would have been a top-10 kicking team last year.

Jay Feely, Cardinals. If Arizona keeps playing like it did at the end of last season, then we'll have ranked Feely too low. Only two kickers scored more points in the final 10 games last year. But Arizona is stuck in the NFC West, meaning a move down to last place is probably just as likely. Feely scored only 37 points in the first six weeks of last season, more than only five teams.

Dan Carpenter, Bills. Buffalo drafted Dustin Hopkins a year ago, but it doesn't look like he factors into their plans. Carpenter hit 33 of 36 field goals last year, and they re-signed him to a contract including a \$2.15 signing bonus. Now let's see if that accuracy holds up; Miami couldn't wait to get rid of him after he converted only 82 percent the previous year. In Buffalo, he'll kick in problematic weather more often than most.

Connor Barth, Bucs. He missed all of last season after tearing his Achilles in a charity basketball game, but Barth is healthy now, and he's been very accurate on field goals. He missed only seven field goals in the 2011-12 seasons, and four of those were from 54-56 yards. The Bucs retooled their roster nicely in the offseason, making a credible season look possible. Barth ranked 12th in scoring among kickers two years ago, chipping in 123 points.

Matt Bryant, Falcons. If Bryant is still on the roster come opening day, we'll probably sneak him into the bottom of the top 10 on our board. Atlanta should bounce back, and that offense can generate plenty of points. The Falcons scored 397 kicking points in the three seasons prior last year, tying for 2nd-most in the league. But Bryant is 39, has lost some ability, and he's due to make \$2.75 million. They could plug another kicker into that role who's just as good and free up some valuable cap space to use on other players. They waited until the final cuts last year before releasing Jeremy Shelley.

Rob Bironas. Bironas has lost some leg strength, and he's hit a below-average 82 percent of his field goals the last two years, but he might still be an above-average kicker. The Titans released him not because of performance, but because they didn't think he was worth \$3.1 million. He'll land somewhere, and he could be a top-10 scorer if the cast around him is right.

Graham Gano, Panthers. Less than two years removed from being released by Washington, Gano could be evolving into one of the better players at the position. A league-high 73 percent of his kickoffs the last two years have resulted in touchbacks, and he seems to have ironed out his accuracy issues – he went 24 of 27 on field goals last year, including all 6 from 50-plus. But Carolina looks like it's going to take a step back, and it ranked only 19th in kicking points last year anyway.

Josh Scobee, Jaguars. In real-life football, Scobee is a top-5 kicker. He's great on kickoffs, and Jacksonville has converted a league-high 91 percent of its field goals over the last three years. But fantasy football is about scoring, and the offense around him simply isn't good enough. The Jaguars came around some in the second half of last season (Scobee scored 55 points in his final eight games), but the odds are stacked against him being a top-15 scorer.

Offensive Lines

It's easy to underrate (or overrate) an offensive line based on the personnel behind it. Elite quarterbacks can use their experience and command of the offense to make average lines look like great ones. Poor or inexperienced passers, meanwhile, can undermine an offensive line by holding the ball too long or reacting poorly to modest pressure.

Sacks allowed can be a deceptive statistic, since some quarterbacks are content to take slight losses, while others are more skilled at simply throwing the ball away. Yards per carry can be similarly misleading, since some averages are inflated by dual-threat quarterbacks, while others are brought down due to tentative running backs freelancing into negative runs.

Our rankings take into account these dynamics, but understand they are only part of the picture. How capable are the individual players (especially at the critical positions of left tackle and center)? How well do the lines work together to implement the offensive system? And how are they augmented by blocking from fullbacks and tight ends? All of those are factored into our determination of which offensive lines are best at what they do, and which are worst.

1. San Francisco 49ers

The left side is outstanding, with Joe Staley and Mike Iupati among the best at their positions. Alex Boone and Anthony Davis – especially Davis – are a solid duo on the right. Center is the only concern, where Daniel Kilgore or third-rounder Marcus Martin will replace Jonathan Goodwin, a 35-year-old who wasn't re-signed. The 49ers also get better blocking out of their tight ends and fullbacks than maybe every other team. San Francisco brought in Jonathan Martin, who was a starter for

Miami before the bullying controversy surfaced, but he should be just a depth guy here.

2. Philadelphia Eagles

Chip Kelly's system makes this group look better than it is, but it's not lacking in talent. With Jason Peters healthy and 2013 first-rounder Lane Johnson improving over the course of his rookie season, the Eagles have one of the better tackle duos. On the inside, left guard Evan Mathis and center Jason Kelce are among the best at their positions. Todd Herremans isn't as good, but he's a solid veteran. Not surprising the Eagles locked up both Peters and Kelce with long-term deals in the offseason.

3. Denver Broncos

Peyton Manning makes this line look better than it is, but it's an elite group – especially when healthy. Ryan Clady missed almost all of last season, but he's an elite tackle when on the field. Manuel Ramirez was a find at center, while Louis Vasquez – a 2013 free agent signing from San Diego – was an All-Pro selection at right guard. Denver will be fine replacing Zane Beadles at left guard with Orlando Franklin, while Chris Clark (credible in place of Clady last year) moves to right tackle.

4. New England Patriots

New England has a good pair of tackles, with Nate Solder and Sebastian Vollmer. Vollmer missed half of last year with a broken leg, but he's fine now. They're a big part of the success of this passing game. Inside, the run-blocking is better than the pass protection. Logan Mankins is a perennial Pro Bowler at left guard, but Dan Connolly could face a fight to keep his job from Marcus Cannon. At center, Ryan Wendell is average; New England retained him in free agency, but only after letting him test the market.

5. Minnesota Vikings

Any offensive line might look pretty good with Adrian Peterson running behind it, but note that Toby Gerhart (who ain't no Peterson) also ran well behind this group last year, averaging 7.7 yards per carry. Minnesota has Matt Kalil at left tackle and John Sullivan at center; they're among the best at their positions. The right side also looks pretty good with Brandon Fusco and Phil Loadholt, especially in terms of run blocking. Charlie Johnson is a liability at left guard, but the Vikings appear content to stick with him for one more season.

6. Tennessee Titans

Many of the other teams that selected tackles in the first round are starting them out at guard – give them a chance to get their feet wet, then transition them outside. The Titans don't have that luxury with Taylor Lewan. They already have maybe the best pair of guards in the league; last year they signed Andy Levitre to a big contract and selected Chance Warmack with a top-10 pick. So Lewan will either be a backup initially, or he'll replace Michael Oher at right tackle. Oher played poorly in Baltimore last year, but they gave him a contract with \$9.5 million in guaranteed money. The other option is to put him in at left tackle, where Michael Roos turns 32 during the season. But Roos is still playing at a high level, so they'll likely hang onto him for one more season (then have Lewan take over there in 2015). This is a group with unusual depth. The only weak spot is at center, where Brian Schwenke started as a fourth-round rookie last year.

7. Chicago Bears

A combination of scheme changes and personnel pickups has upgraded this unit from a

Ranking the Offensive Lines

The numbers next to the team names show how we rank the overall effectiveness of each team's offensive line.

The colored boxes on the right show the projected starting linemen for each team, along with how they rank at their position:

ALL-PRO CANDIDATE
ABOVE AVERAGE
AVERAGE
PROBABLY BELOW AVERAGE
DEFINITELY BELOW AVERAGE

liability to a strength. They signed Jermon Bushrod away from New Orleans, and he solidified the left tackle spot that's plagued them for years. They drafted Kyle Long, and he was a Pro Bowl alternate as a rookie. Jordan Mills was just a fifth-round pick last year, but he seems fine at right tackle. Roberto Garza is 35, and he can't go on forever.

8. Cincinnati Bengals

Andy Dalton was hit on only 8 percent of his pass plays last year, 2nd-best behind Peyton Manning. That's an indicator that his protection was good. Cincinnati lost left tackle Anthony Collins in free agency, but Andrew Whitworth should be almost as good there; he manned that spot before injuries forced him inside. Kevin Zeitler is one of the league's best right guards. There are a couple of questions on the interior. Left guard Clint Boling tore his ACL in December; when healthy, he's solid, but he could be limited early on. The Bengals are replacing Kyle Cook, but they don't seem concerned about it; they cut Cook, even though he was a 30-year-old with a modest salary.

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TEAM	LEFT TACKLE	LEFT GUARD	CENTER	RIGHT GUARD	RIGHT TACKLE
1. San Francisco	Joe Staley	Mike Iupati	Daniel Kilgore	Alex Boone	Anthony Davis
2. Philadelphia	Jason Peters	Evan Mathis	Jason Kelce	Todd Herremans	Lane Johnson
3. Denver	Ryan Clady	Orlando Franklin	Manny Ramirez	Louis Vasquez	Chris Clark
4. New England	Nate Solder	Logan Mankins	Ryan Wendell	Dan Connolly	Sebastian Vollmer
5. Minnesota	Matt Kalil	Charlie Johnson	John Sullivan	Brandon Fusco	Phil Loadholt
6. Tennessee	Michael Roos	Andy Levitre	Brian Schwenke	Chance Warmack	Taylor Lewan
7. Chicago	Jermon Bushrod	Matt Slauson	Roberto Garza	Kyle Long	Jordan Mills
8. Cincinnati	Andrew Whitworth	Clint Boling	Mike Pollak	Kevin Zeitler	Andre Smith
9. Cleveland	Joe Thomas	Joel Bitonio	Alex Mack	John Greco	Mitchell Schwartz
10. Pittsburgh	Kelvin Beachum	Ramon Foster	Maurkice Pouncey	David DeCastro	Marcus Gilbert
11. New Orleans	Terron Armstead	Ben Grubbs	Jonathan Goodwin	Jahri Evans	Zach Strief
12. Dallas	Tyron Smith	Ronald Leary	Travis Frederick	Zack Martin	Doug Free
13. St. Louis	Jake Long	Greg Robinson	Scott Wells	Davin Joseph	Rodger Saffold
14. Arizona	Jared Veldheer	Jonathan Cooper	Lyle Sendlein	Paul Sanaika	Bradley Sowell
15. Green Bay	David Bakhtiari	Josh Sitton	J.C. Tretter	T.J. Lang	Bryan Bulaga
16. Tampa Bay	Anthony Collins	Carl Nicks	Evan Dietrich-Smith	Jamon Meredith	Demar Dotson
17. San Diego	King Dunlap	Chad Rinehart	Nick Hardwick	Jeromey Clary	D.J. Fluker
18. Detroit	Riley Reiff	Rob Sims	Dominic Raiola	Larry Warford	LaAdrian Waddle
19. Miami	Brandon Albert	Billy Turner	Mike Pouncey	Shelley Smith	Ja'Wuan James
20. Oakland	Donald Penn	Khalif Barnes	Stefen Wisniewski	Austin Howard	Menelik Watson
21. Seattle	Russell Okung	James Carpenter	Max Unger	J.R. Sweezy	Michael Bowie
22. NY Jets	D. Ferguson	Brian Winters	Nick Mangold	Willie Colon	Breno Giacomini
23. Indianapolis	Anthony Castonzo	Donald Thomas	Khaled Holmes	Hugh Thornton	Gosder Cherilus
24. Baltimore	Eugene Monroe	Kelechi Osemele	Jeremy Zuttah	Marshal Yanda	Rick Wagner
25. Houston	Duane Brown	Xavier Sua-Filo	Chris Myers	Brandon Brooks	Derek Newton
26. Buffalo	Cordy Glenn	Chris Williams	Eric Wood	Kraig Urbik	Cyrus Kouandjio
27. Kansas City	Eric Fisher	Jeff Allen	Rodney Hudson	Rishaw Johnson	Donald Stephenson
28. NY Giants	Will Beatty	Geoff Schwartz	J.D. Walton	John Jerry	Justin Pugh
29. Washington	Trent Williams	Shaun Lauvao	Kory Lichtensteiger	Chris Chester	Tyler Polumbus
30. Atlanta	Sam Baker	Justin Blalock	Joe Hawley	Jon Asamoah	Jake Matthews
31. Jacksonville	Luke Joeckel	Zane Beadles	Mike Brewster	Brandon Linder	Austin Pasztor
32. Carolina	Byron Bell	Amini Silatolu	Ryan Kalil	Trai Turner	Nate Chandler

9. Cleveland Browns

The Browns have ranked in the bottom-10 in rushing three years in a row, and only two teams allowed more sacks last year, but there seems to be good talent here. Left tackle and center are the most important positions, and the Browns might have the best one-two punch there in the entire league. Everyone agrees Joe Thomas is one of the game's top half dozen left tackles, and Alex Mack is now the game's highest-paid center after the Jaguars tried to sign

him away. Cleveland has lesser guys at guard, and right tackle Mitchell Schwartz is just OK, but those positions aren't as important. The Browns are changing offensive systems, which might make this group perform better.

10. Pittsburgh Steelers

This line has been a problem area in recent years, but it's starting to come around. It was the offensive line that powered the team's 8-4 finish last year. Pittsburgh ran for 205 more yards in the second half of last season

(versus the first eight games). Maurkice Pouncey returns after missing almost all of last season, and he's probably the league's best center. Kelvin Beachum, a seventh-round pick, stepped in at left tackle last season and gave the team better play there than they'd had in several years. And 2012 first-rounder David DeCastro is emerging as one of the game's best guards.

11. New Orleans Saints

The Saints have had great offensive lines in the Sean

Payton era, but they really slipped last year. Drew Brees got hit way too often, and running backs averaged only 3.8 yards per carry. Payton finally benched left tackle Charles Brown in December, and that could be a turning point. They were better there in the final two games and the playoffs with rookie Terron Armstead. If Armstead is for real, this line is back on its way up. The guards are great. Brian de la Puente signed with Chicago, but they should be just as good at center.

Offensive Lines

They can either start youngster Tim Lelito there, or they can go with Jonathan Goodwin, who's started for them in the past and was the San Francisco starter last year.

12. Dallas Cowboys

Tyron Smith has emerged as an upper-tier left tackle, while Travis Frederick had a very good rookie season at center. Those are the anchors. They're just trying to get by at left guard with Ronald Leary. There are questions on the right, where tackle Doug Free has been inconsistent. First-rounder Zack Martin will be the right tackle eventually, but they're starting him off at guard, which should give them more push inside.

13. St. Louis Rams

This offensive line improved in the second half of last year, after the team started emphasizing the run more, and now it should be any better. They used the 2nd pick of the draft on Greg Robinson; he'll be their left tackle eventually, but this year year he'll be a 330-pound road-grading guard. They're going with Davin Joseph at the other guard spot. He was released by the Bucs in a cap-related deal, but he's not far removed from being one of the best guards in the game. Robinson and Joseph are a big upgrade over the guards they used last year.

14. Arizona Cardinals

The Cardinals should have the league's most improved offensive line. They've been plagued by problems at left tackle for years, and they solved that by signing Jared Veldheer away from the Raiders. They'll also get a huge boost at left guard from Jonathan Cooper.

He missed all of his rookie year with a broken leg, but he should be good from the get-go. The Cardinals selected him with the seventh pick of last year's draft

(the highest of any guard since 1975). The other spots aren't as impressive (both jobs are up for grabs on the right side) but this group will be helped more this year by the tight ends. Both second-rounder Troy Niklas and free agent John Carlson are known more for their blocking than pass catching.

15. Green Bay Packers

For a team that's used several high picks on tackles and has an elite quarterback to protect, Green Bay has a lot of questions. Bryan Bulaga will probably man the right side, but trying him out on the left is a possibility. David Bakhtiari was just OK there last season, while former first-rounder Derek Sherrod – injured the last two years – will have a shot to compete. The guards are very good (Josh Sitton and T.J. Lang), but they'll be joined inside by a new center, likely J.C. Tretter, after Evan Dietrich-Smith left in free agency.

16. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Getting Carl Nicks, who missed most of last season due to injury/infection, back at left guard will be the biggest positive development for this line. The Bucs also made changes elsewhere, replacing Donald Penn and Jeremy Zuttah at the critical left tackle and center spots with Anthony Collins (Cincinnati) and Evan Dietrich-Smith (Green Bay). Collins is a clear upgrade (and younger than Penn); the center swap looks more like a wash. The right side is just OK. On the whole, this line did a nice job creating room for lesser runners after Doug Martin got hurt a year ago.

17. San Diego Chargers

Here's evidence of the importance of play calling and offensive design. This group was considered one of the worst a year ago at this time, but the Chargers were able to mask

most of those issues by having Philip Rivers get rid of the ball sooner. King Dunlap is definitely a lesser left tackle; other teams wouldn't want him as a starter. But San Diego was able to work with him. It's the same with the guards; they're an ordinary pair, but they're not as problematic in this system. Nothing ordinary, however, about right tackle D.J. Fluker; he'll struggle some with speedy pass rushers, but in the run game he's a bulldozer who'll plow open holes. Nick Hardwick is 33, but he's still an above-average center.

18. Detroit Lions

The Lions have rebuilt their line the last two seasons, and were rewarded last year with mostly respectable play. Second-year left tackle Riley Reiff was fine replacing the retired Jeff Backus, while a pair of rookies – third-rounder Larry Warford and undrafted LaAdrian Waddle – both worked out nicely on the right side. Especially Warford, a major asset in the running game. Dominic Raiola, though 35, seems fine at center. The selection of Eric Ebron will enable Brandon Pettigrew to focus on blocking, where he's an asset.

19. Miami Dolphins

Miami's offensive line will be better. It was a disaster last year, with both Jonathan Martin and Richie Incognito lost in the Bullygate debacle. Now they've signed Brandon Albert away from Kansas City; he's way better than Martin – maybe one of the top 15 left tackles in the league. They're not great at guard, where they'll try to get by with Billy Turner and Shelley Smith. Turner is a third-round pick, while Smith was mostly a backup with the Rams. Mike Pouncey has been a headache off the field (from wearing a "Free Hernandez" baseball cap to tweeting about hazing Miami's incoming

rookies) but he's definitely an above-average center, so the Dolphins will live with him. Ja'Wuan James is a first-round pick, but he's not up there with the group of tackles that was selected in the top 15; at best he should be an average right tackle in his first year.

20. Oakland Raiders

Left tackle is the most important position, and the Raiders will be worse there. They couldn't re-sign Jared Veldheer, and they're replacing him with Donald Penn. Penn could be OK – he might be a top-20 tackle – but the Bucs cut him rather than pay him \$6.75 million. Oakland signed Austin Howard away from the Jets; he was a tackle there, but he'll be a guard in this offense. Stefen Wisniewski is one of the game's best centers. Menelik Watson was a second-round pick a year ago; he could grow into being a serviceable right tackle.

21. Seattle Seahawks

You would expect the Seahawks, having won the Super Bowl, would have a good offensive line, but that's not the case. They allowed more quarterback hits than any other team last year, and they were also the league's worst short-yardage running team. Russell Okung is a top-level left tackle, but he's been plagued by injuries and underwent foot surgery in May. When Seattle selected James Carpenter late in the first round in 2011 it shocked everyone (including Nick Saban, who coached him at Alabama) and Carpenter has been a disaster all along – a turnstile at right tackle, and now just a guy at guard. They lost Breno Giacomini, who started at right tackle, so you've got to figure Michael Bowie won't be as good there. Right guard J.R. Sweezy was a defensive lineman in college.

22. New York Jets

New York has a lesser offensive line, and it's a group where the two best players (left tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson and center Nick Mangold) are older guys. They're still above-average players, but Ferguson in particular is showing the mileage. The Jets will be a little worse at right tackle. They didn't want to overpay Austin Howard, so he signed with Oakland. Now they've got Breno Giacomini; he started for the Seahawks last year but struggled for most of the year.

23. Indianapolis Colts

Only three teams allowed more quarterback hits than the Colts last year. If the Colts are going to keep Andrew Luck healthy, they'll need to be better. Most of the problems came up the middle; Anthony Castonzo and Gosder Cherilus are adequate tackles. Now they just need to cobble together something better inside. They didn't pursue any of the high-profile free agent centers, so they're apparently hoping Khaled Holmes, their fourth-round pick a year ago, can handle that job. It's either him or Donald Thomas, who they'd rather leave at guard. Their other guard, Hugh Thornton, might be better now that he has a year of experience.

24. Baltimore Ravens

No team had a more disappointing offensive line last year. The Ravens averaged a league-low 3.1 yards per carry, and only three teams allowed more sacks. Hard to believe this is the same unit that got hot and helped power Baltimore to a Super Bowl the previous season. They blew up that group, dumping Bryant McKinnie in the middle of last year, and not re-signing Michael Oher. Eugene Monroe is supposed to be a good left tackle, but he didn't play that way last year. They're hoping last year's fifth-rounder, Ricky Wagner, can be their right tackle. They will

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be better at center with Jeremy Zuttah, who started last year for Tampa Bay. Kelechi Osemele is a good enough guard, but he's coming off back surgery.

25. Houston Texans

At best this should be a below-average unit. Only one offensive line last year allowed its quarterback to get hit more often, and the running game has declined in recent years. The Texans have good players at left tackle (Duane Brown) and center (Chris Myers), and those are more valuable positions. But they're below-average elsewhere, and everyone is trying to learn a new scheme. They've been particularly bad at right tackle, where they'd love to replace Derek Newton. Second-rounder Xavier Sua-Filo likely will start at left guard.

26. Buffalo Bills

This offensive line was good enough last year for the team to rank 2nd in rushing, but pass protection was an issue all year. Only three teams allowed more sacks, and Buffalo's quarterbacks were hit on 19 percent of their pass plays, 2nd-worst in the league. Left tackle Cordy Glenn and center Eric Wood look good enough. The other spots are all problematic. Buffalo signed Chris Williams away from the Rams to come in and start, but the size of the contract is an indication that the rest of the league thinks he'll be a nominal starter at best.

27. Kansas City

This line won't be nearly as good as last year. Left tackle Brandon Albert signed with the Dolphins, and they also need a new right guard, since Jon Asamoah and Geoff Schwartz (who split that job last year) also signed with other teams. The hope is that Eric Fisher can handle left tackle. He was the No. 1 pick of the draft last year, and that's

the position he played in college. But Fisher struggled at right tackle, and he wouldn't have been a top-10 pick in this year's draft. At best this should be a group that's slightly below average, and it's a unit that could really struggle.

28. New York Giants

New York signed four free agent blockers. None of those guys are superstars. John Jerry and Charles Brown are making under \$1 million per year, which shows what everyone else thinks of them. But at least there's now some depth to work with. J.D. Walton should start at center – if he can stay healthy (he's played in only four games in the last two years). Otherwise it's second-rounder Weston Richburg. The key is getting Will Beatty fully rehabbed from a broken leg; if he's right physically, he could be an above-average left tackle. Their most expensive free agent is Geoff Schwartz (four years, \$16.8 million), but he started only half of last year. New York selected Justin Pugh in the first round a year ago; the hope is he'll be better in his second year.

29. Washington

This is a patchwork line, and one that's probably at least a year away from having the players it needs. Free agent Shawn Lauvao was a below-average right guard in Cleveland. Former guard Kory Lichtensteiger moves to center, and we're dubious about that spot, too. On the right side, third-rounders Spencer Long and Morgan Moses will push incumbents Chris Chester and Tyler Polumbus. Trent Williams is an above-average left tackle, but like everyone else, he's learning a new blocking scheme. Considering this team's fortunes rely on keeping Robert Griffin III healthy, the line is a concern.

30. Atlanta Falcons

This was the league's worst line a year ago. The Falcons couldn't run the ball, and Matt Ryan got sacked 44 times, 16 more than ever before. Jake Matthews will help; he was the sixth pick of the draft, and he's better than either of the tackles selected in the top 2 last year. But he may need time to adjust to the pros, and he's just one guy. They'll start him off at right tackle, and he'll move to the left when he's ready. They signed Jon Asamoah, who'll start at guard, but he doesn't look like a savior; in the second half of last season, Kansas City demoted him behind Geoff Schwartz.

31. Jacksonville Jaguars

Jacksonville's offensive line struggled last year. They ranked next-to-last in sacks, and they averaged only 3.3 yards per carry rushing. But it's a group that might be on the upswing. Luke Joeckel will help at left tackle; he played in only five games as a rookie because of a broken ankle. And they'll be way better at left guard with Zane Beadles (formerly of Denver); the contract he signed was the biggest of the free agent guards. Center looks like a trouble spot; Brad Meester retired, and the Jaguars were unable to lure Alex Mack out of Cleveland.

32. Carolina Panthers

The Panthers might have the two worst tackles in the league. Jordan Gross has been a pillar at left tackle for years, but he retired. Now they could be down to Byron Bell, who struggled last year at right tackle and has limited ability, and Nate Chandler, a former practice squad player who was a defensive tackle at this time a year ago. They're really not much better at guard, where Amini Silatolu is coming off major knee surgery and third-rounder Trai Turner might have to start immediately. Center Ryan Kalili is great, but this line is a mess.

Defense

Offenses are passing for more yards and touchdowns than ever before. But they're also allowing more sacks. Teams averaged over 40 sacks last year, after hovering at 34-37 for the previous 10 seasons.

Part of this can be attributed to simply more passing. Teams averaged 607 pass plays last year. That's up 15 from the previous record, and it's 45 more than the average of last 10 years. More pass plays will tend to result in more sacks.

Defenses also seem to be getting better at pressuring quarterbacks. Maybe it's because fewer are respecting the run, or maybe there's some talent dynamic with offensive and defensive lines. Whatever the reason, defenses collected sacks on 6.7 percent of pass plays last year, the highest rate since 2005.

Offenses won't be moving away from the pass anytime soon, so we're expecting defenses will average close to 40 sacks again this season. So if you want a difference maker, you need to find one of the teams that might hit 50.

Takeaways, on the other hand, keep dropping. You would think that more pass attempts would tend to result in more interceptions, but that hasn't been the case. Instead, interceptions and fumbles keep declining. This can likely be attributed to helmet-to-helmet hits being legislated out of the game; the ball tends to get jarred loose on those kind of hits.

With sacks up and takeaways down, it makes sense to focus on pass rushes in fantasy leagues. That's the stat that tends to drive fantasy value. Of the top 10 sacking teams last year, all but two of them also ranked in the top 11 in fantasy value. The rest of the stats tend to be tied to pass rush anyway. More sacks tend to mean more quarterback pressure, and that usually means more fumbles, interceptions and loose balls returned for scores.

The following rankings are based on 1 point for sacks, 2 points for turnovers, and 6 points for all defensive and special teams touchdowns. If your league gives credit for defenses that hold opponents to fewer points or yards, you'll want to use either the custom rankings section at our website, or download our stat projection file (Excel format) at www.fantasyindex.com.

1 Everything will be harder for the **Seattle Seahawks** this year. That's part of trying to defend a Super Bowl championship. They'll get everyone's best shot, and the salary cap cost them some of their depth. Even the networks are against them – nobody wants to televise prime time games at CenturyLink Field because so many of those games have been blowouts in recent years.

But the Seahawks still have the league's deepest roster. They were able to re-sign Michael Bennett, and he and Cliff Avril will lead their stable of pass rushers. Only seven teams had more sacks last year.

It's the Legion of Boom that makes this unit special. Richard Sherman, Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor are all about the best in the league at their positions. They helped Seattle finish with a league-high 28 interceptions last year. Tough to match that total, but 20 looks possible. The Seahawks had 20 and 18 picks in the two seasons prior to last year.

The kick return units look above average. They'll need to find a punt returner, but Percy Harvin probably will hit on a kickoff at some point. Because of injuries, he returned only two all of last year; one went for 58 yards and the other was a touchdown in the Super Bowl. Harvin scored 5 TDs on kickoffs in four years with Minnesota.

2 Seattle comes in as our top defense, but the **St. Louis Rams**, whose overall fantasy production should be similar but will be selected several rounds later in most drafts, are a better value. The Rams, with Robert Quinn and Chris Long leading the way, have the best pass-rushing defensive line in the league. They've racked up a league-high 105 sacks over the last two years, 6 more than any other team. Add to that first-rounder Aaron Donald, who brings unusual quickness and pass-rushing potential from a defensive tackle. He had 11 sacks last year at Pitt.

Any time a team ranks in the top 4 in sacks (and this one will) it starts to look like a more favorable option for fumbles and interceptions. Those things tend to follow from quarterback pressure, and the Rams ranked 10th in takeaways last year. Tavon Austin, meanwhile, is one of the top half-dozen punt returners. He had a 98-yard touchdown last year, another touchdown nullified, and three other returns over 20 yards.

3 Once the Seahawks and Rams are off the board, there's a drop to the next four defenses, which look pretty similar. No reason to hurry into selecting any of them. The **Denver Broncos** look like the best of this group. They played half of last season without Von Miller and still tied for 13th with 41 sacks. Now they might have two of the league's top half-dozen quarterback hunters. Miller has 35 sacks in 40 career games; he's joined by DeMarcus Ware, who had 11-plus sacks seven seasons in a row before being plagued by injuries last year.

That pass rush should benefit from tighter coverage in the secondary. They signed Aqib Talib and T.J. Ward, who are a lot better than Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Michael Adams. Talib is a true shut-down guy, and he's averaged about one interception every three games over his career. Playing at altitude and having released Trindon Holliday, Denver looks like a bottom-10 team on kick returns.

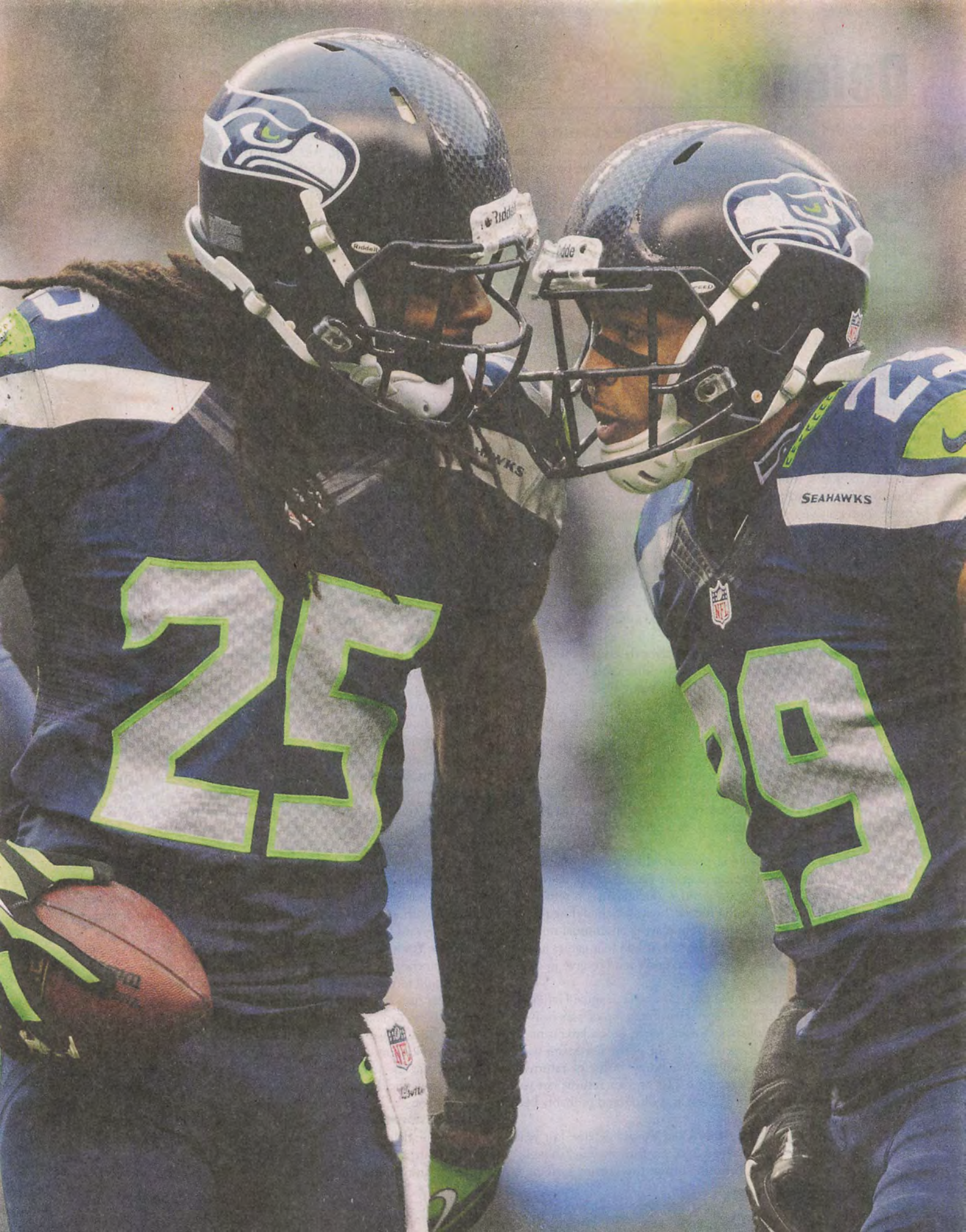
4 In each of the last two seasons, five teams have boasted two players with double-digit sacks. The **Carolina Panthers**, with elite pass rushers Charles Johnson and Greg Hardy, are the only team to do both years. Their 26 last season accounted for nearly half of the team's league-leading 60; the Bills and Rams were the only other teams to reach 50. With Johnson and Hardy squarely in their primes, there's little reason to think they won't be terrorizing opposing passers once again. (Misdemeanor assault charges could cost Hardy a game or two, but no indication it will be more than that.)

Carolina's defense is anchored by middle linebacker Luke Kuechly, who's fast becoming another Ray Lewis – he covers a lot of ground, piles up tackles and has a knack for dropping into coverage in the right spot. Carolina has two new starters in the secondary, which is a concern, but last year's group was ordinary at best, yet only four teams had more interceptions (20). That stellar front seven would make any secondary look a lot more palatable.

5 The **New Orleans Saints** were the only team last year that didn't score a defensive or special teams touchdown, but let's not read too much into that. There's a lot of luck involved with picking up bouncing balls. Better to focus on the pass rush, and the Saints had 49 sacks last year, 4th-most in the league. Rob Ryan runs an aggressive scheme, and they've got some pass-rushing talent (with Cameron Jordan leading the way).

With Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas leading the way, Seattle should rank among the takeaway leaders.

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Defense

The Saints signed safety Jarius Byrd to a six-year contract worth \$56 million, and he'll add some ballhawking skills to that secondary. New Orleans finished with 26 takeaways and 5 TDs the previous season.

6 Year after year, the **New England Patriots** part ways with capable defenders, and year after year they replace them with comparable ones. Aqib Talib out and Darrelle Revis in, for example. Whoever wears the uniform, Bill Belichick and his crew tend to mold them into a good unit. New England finished as the 11th-best fantasy defense last year, and it was in the top 10 in nine of the previous 12 years.

The Patriots give up more yards than other teams, in part because they run a lot of hurry-up (there are more plays in their games). But they've tended to be one of the most opportunistic defenses. They've ranked 12th or better in takeaways five years in a row. The pass rush is always good; they've ranked worse than 15th in sacks only once in the last 10 years. They also play in the AFC East, where all of the other teams have young quarterbacks.

7 The **Buffalo Bills** had the No. 7 fantasy defense last year, but they appear just as likely to slip out of the top 10 as move up into the top 5. Mike Pettine left for Cleveland; he was a coordinator who liked to get after quarterbacks. They might be a little more conservative now. And Jarius Byrd signed with New Orleans; he's one of the more active safeties in the league, with 22 picks and 11 forced fumbles in five years.

The Bills have guys who can get after the quarterback; they had 57 sacks last season. They've also ranked in the top 10 in takeaways in three of the past five years. But let's see what they look like in August. Marquise Goodwin could be as good as anyone on kickoff returns.

8 The **Cincinnati Bengals** lost their defensive coordinator (Mike Zimmer took the head job in Minnesota) and pass-rusher Michael Johnson signed with Tampa Bay. Their best cornerback, Leon Hall, is coming off his second torn Achilles in three years. So it will be tough for this group to rank in the top 6 for the third year in a row.

But the cupboard isn't bare. Ends Carlos Dunlap and Wallace Gilberry both had over twice as many sacks as Johnson last year, and the Bengals will get a boost from tackle Geno Atkins, who missed half of last season. New coordinator Paul Guenther is in his 10th year with the team as an assistant, so he's certainly familiar with the scheme and personnel.

9 **Kansas City** finished last season with the No. 1 fantasy defense, but it was limping in at the finish line. In its first nine games, the team had 36 sacks and 7 touchdowns on returns; it had only 11 sacks and 4 TDs the rest of the way. Scheduling played a role. Kansas City benefited early from playing an unusual number of really bad quarterbacks. Late in the year it had four games against Peyton Manning and Philip Rivers, who don't tend to give up many sacks or interceptions.

Kansas City should rank in the top 10 in sacks. Tamba Hali and Justin Houston are one of the best one-two punches of pass rushers. And there are plenty of sticky fingers in the secondary; it had 21 interceptions last year. Kansas City is one of the few teams with a realistic chance of scoring multiple touchdowns on kick returns. Including the preseason, they scored 6 TDs on kick returns last year, and fourth-rounder DeAnthony Thomas is faster and probably better than anybody they used on returns last year.

10 The **San Francisco 49ers** had a top-5 defense last year in terms of allowing yards and points. Fantasy-wise, though, they were a disappointment, finishing 8th in this scoring system.

A similar kind of season looks likely, with two of their best players tagged with red flags. Aldon Smith had 19.5 sacks two years ago, but he's had a host of off-field problems, including a stint at a rehab facility and an offseason arrest. NaVorro Bowman is a tackling machine but might miss the first half of the season rehabbing a knee injury.

Elsewhere, this defense looks strong. Its other pass rusher, Ahmad Brooks, comes off a career-high 8.5 sacks. San Francisco wasn't thrilled with last year's secondary, so it used its top pick on a safety for the second straight season, while also signing former Colt Antoine Bethea (100-plus tackles in four straight seasons) and talented (but injury-prone) corner Chris Cook. The secondary might be a little better. This defense has been consistently opportunistic under coordinator Vic Fangio. Since he joined the team in 2011, only four teams have more takeaways.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

Chicago Bears. The Bears last year ranked last against the run and tied for last in sacks, but they're working on it. They signed Lamarr Houston, the best available defensive end, and they've brought in Jared Allen. Allen is 32 and in decline, but he can still get after quarterbacks – 12 and 11.5 sacks the last two years. For reasons we can't explain, the Bears seem to have a knack for picking up loose balls and taking them into the end zone. They've scored 7 more touchdowns on defensive and special teams than anyone else over the last five years. They released Devin Hester, but no big loss; he's 31 and has scored only 2 TDs on kick returns in the last two years.

Miami Dolphins. The Dolphins are the only team that's finished in the top 11 in sacks six years in a row, and they should keep that going. Olivier Vernon netted a team-high 11.5 sacks last year, and Cameron Wake might be even better; he's averaged 11.5 over the last four years. If the Dolphins can get Dion Jordan fused in to supplement those guys, they'll have a top-level pass rush. The secondary should be better with free agents Louis Delmas and Cortland Finnegan; all defensive backs, of course, look better with a strong pass rush in front of them.

Green Bay Packers. The Packers should have a top-10 pass rush. They've finished with 47 and 44 sacks the last two years, and now they've added Julius Peppers to supplement that group. Now they just need to get their takeaways up. They've had only 23 and 22 the last two years; over the previous three years, they averaged a league-high 37. First-rounder Ha Ha Clinton-Dix could help; he had 7 interceptions the last two years at Alabama. The Packers aren't using Randall Cobb anymore on kick returns, but they should be just as good with Micah Hyde, who last year scored on a punt return and had a 70-yard kickoff return.

New York Giants. The Giants' once-dominant sack attack has fallen off the map, but there's bounce-back potential. Jason Pierre-Paul could return to greatness; he's played hurt the last two years. The pass rush has also been hurt by New York's injury-gutted secondary, so New York added Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie. The Giants should be a lot better on special teams; Trindon Holliday scored 6 TDs on kick returns in 29 games with the Texans and Broncos (though he also fumbled 10 times). If Holliday starts dropping too many, they could try Odell Beckham, who scored on 2 punt returns as a sophomore at Louisiana State.

Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens probably will have a top-10 real-life defense, but their style of ball doesn't tend to translate as well into fantasy. They've finished higher than 14th in fantasy defense just once in the last four seasons. Terrell Suggs and Elvis

Dumervil are a strong one-two punch of pass rushers, but the Ravens finished last year with 40 sacks, which was only average. Their 24 takeaways was below-average. The Ravens have been outstanding the last two years on kick returns, with 5 TDs – 6 if Mike Tomlin hadn't been standing on the field last Thanksgiving.

Cleveland Browns. The Browns failed to live up to expectations a year ago, but maybe this will be the year. Mike Pettine did nice work with Buffalo's defense last year, and he's got plenty of talent to work with: a trio of pass rushers with 8-10 sack potential (including second-year man Barkevious Mingo), and potentially an elite cornerback duo in shutdown guy Joe Haden and top pick Justin Gilbert. Travis Benjamin is as good as anyone on punt returns but is coming off knee surgery.

Arizona Cardinals. The Cardinals are one of only two teams that have ranked in the top 10 in fantasy defense in seven of the last eight years. But Daryl Washington is suspended for the season, so they'll have a brand-new duo at inside linebacker (Karlos Dansby signed with Cleveland). Last season's top-ranked run defense won't be as good, and sacks and interceptions will be down. The secondary, at least, should be better with Antonio Cromartie playing opposite Patrick Peterson, and Tyrann Mathieu (knee) should chip in some big plays once he's back to 100 percent. The kick return teams appear to be below average.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers. When Lovie Smith was with the Rams, their defense was a top-10 fantasy group twice in three seasons. He was even better in Chicago, finishing in the top 10 in eight of nine years. The pieces are in place for him to start putting together the same kind of unit with the Bucs. Gerald McCoy could be developing into the game's best defensive tackle, and that line looks a lot better with Michael Johnson added into the mix. They signed Alterraun Verner away from Tennessee, and he looks like a good No. 1 corner.

Houston Texans. We're confident that top pick Jadeveon Clowney will help the pass rush. Almost half (14) of the 30 pass rushers selected in the top 10 over the last 25 years recorded at least 5 sacks as rookies, while 5 of them reached double digits. With Clowney and J.J. Watt, this defense should push for 40 sacks (44 in both 2011 and 2012 before slumping to 32 last season). Houston has concerns elsewhere, but the front seven will cause problems for opponents.

Detroit Lions. The Lions have one of the league's best defensive lines, but for whatever reason all that talent up front didn't click under the previous regime. The new coordinator was plucked from Baltimore's staff, so maybe he can maximize the abilities of Ndamukong Suh, Ziggy Ansah, Jason Jones and Nick Fairley. Second-round linebacker Kyle Van Noy could also help the pass rush, mired at 20th or worse the last two seasons. Jeremy Ross was one of the top kick returners in the league at the end of last year.

New York Jets. Rex Ryan is one of the league's best defensive coaches, but those units have tended to be below-average for fantasy purposes – not enough takeaways or sacks. We expect that will be the case again this year; it's another defense that will likely be over-drafted based on reputation.

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ANDREW RICHARDSON/CON SMI

He's bloody good: J.J. Watt comes off a down year, but he's still as likely as anyone to lead all defensive linemen in tackles and sacks.

Individual Defensive Players

If your league uses individual defensive players, congratulations: you've expanded the game to include the hundreds of NFL players that most leagues group anonymously under the acronym D/ST. Maybe owners in team-defense leagues will select St. Louis or Buffalo because of what Robert Quinn or Kiko Alonso brings to the table, but they really don't care where the production comes from. As Jerry Seinfeld once said, they're just cheering for laundry.

Applying such grouping to offensive players would make for a pretty dull game. The Broncos, Saints and Packers would be the first three picks in most leagues. Not much fun. With that in mind, consider replacing (or supplementing) team defenses with an IDP or two. You might be pleasantly surprised.

The following rankings are based on giving points for sacks (4), turnovers (4), touchdowns on either defense, special teams or offense (6) and tackles (1.5 solo, .75 assist). Linemen receive an extra point for sacks, and a 2-1 split on tackles (otherwise, they're too insignificant in comparison to linebackers and defensive backs). This scoring system favors players with good tackle numbers, while hurting pass-rush specialists. If your league uses a different scoring system, access our defensive stat projections at the web site (they come in an Excel file).

In previous years we've listed the projected starters for each NFL defense, as well as their statistics from the past season. That information can also be downloaded at www.fantasyindex.com.

Defense

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

1 With linemen, the best bet is to find players who post lofty numbers in both tackles and sacks; plenty of guys do one or the other. That makes **J.J. Watt**, who in 2012 led his position in both categories (81 and 20.5, respectively), an easy choice as the top player. As poorly as Houston played last year, Watt still finished 2nd among linemen in tackles (80), reached double-digit sacks (10.5) and forced 4 fumbles. The selection of Jadeveon Clowney should make it more difficult for defenses to focus on Watt.

2 **Rob Ninkovich** led all linemen in tackles last season (91). We'll leave it to the attorneys to decide if he's actually a lineman (he appears as a defensive end on the team's official roster, but he often lines up as a linebacker). Don't draft him this high unless you're sure your league will allow him to be used as a defensive end. Ninkovich won't fare as well in sack-heavy scoring formats; his 8 last season was a career high.

3 **Robert Quinn** hasn't ranked in the top 15 in tackles for linemen in any of his first three seasons, but his sacks have nearly doubled each year, from 5 to 10.5 to 19 a year ago, trailing only Robert Mathis (19.5). Mathis is 33 and suspended for the first four games, so Quinn looks like the favorite to lead the league in sacks. He also comes off a career-high 57 tackles, so maybe this is the year he sneaks up into the top 10.

4 If rumors can be believed, the Jets hoped to trade up for Trent Richardson in the draft two years ago. A year later they used their first-rounder on a defensive player who actually outscored him last year – **Sheldon Richardson**, the Defensive Rookie of the Year. Late in the season, the Jets lined Richardson up in the backfield to score a pair of short touchdowns; combine those points with his 78 tackles (only three linemen had more) and 3.5 sacks and you've got a pretty valuable defender. Check to see if your league will give him credit for potentially scoring on 1-yard runs again.

5 Ranking 3rd at his position in tackles last season is another of New England's linebacker hybrids, **Chandler Jones**. His numbers were awfully similar to J.J. Watt's last year: 79 tackles and 11.5 sacks. Now entering his third season, his responsibilities will likely grow in Bill Belichick's defense. Those favoring upside or in keeper formats will want to select him ahead of Ninkovich; he's six years younger.

6 Three years back, **Cameron Jordan** was best known for Cleveland mistakenly phoning him during the draft when they wanted to select Jordan Cameron. Coming off his first Pro Bowl, he's now known for on-field production, averaging 57 tackles and 11 sacks the last two seasons. He's one of three linemen who had at least 45 tackles and 12 sacks last season, and he's the only one certain to be playing to start the season (Robert Mathis will miss the first four games, and Greg Hardy might also be suspended).

7 In his three odd years, **Cameron Wake** has had 42 or fewer tackles and 8.5 or fewer sacks. In two even years, he put up at least 53 tackles and 14 sacks in each. This is an even year. Hmm. Wake's contract makes it likely he'll need to restructure or be cut next offseason, so this is essentially a contract year for him. Since 2010, only four players have more sacks than Wake (46).

8 **Lamarr Houston** has never had more than 6 sacks in a season, but he's one of the more productive linemen in terms of tackles. His numbers have gone up in that area in each of his first four seasons; he hit 69, with a career-high 6 sacks, a year ago. Strange the Raiders let him go, but the Bears gave him a \$35 million contract and will replace Julius Peppers with him in their defense. Adjusting to a new (and more talented) defense, his tackles might go down, but he could get more opportunities for sacks.

9 **DeMarcus Ware** was kicked to the curb in the offseason, but it was a gentle one – the cap-strapped Cowboys badly wanted to bring him back. Playing hurt and missing three games, Ware managed only 6 sacks last season, but he had a league-high 46 sacks in the previous three years. In Denver, Ware will get to play with a lot more leads than he typically enjoyed on middling Dallas teams, and he'll have Von Miller occupying defenses on the other side. Double-digit sacks look likely.

10 Sometimes you need to take chances on the breakout player. We believe **Everson Griffen**, in line to replace Jared Allen in Minnesota, will be one of those guys. Griffen's started only one game the last two seasons, stuck behind Allen and Brian Robison, but still recorded 13.5 sacks in a reserve role. The Vikings ponied up \$42 million over 5 years to keep him around in the offseason, suggesting they're confident he's poised for a breakout season. You'll probably be able to draft him a little later than our projections warrant.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

Do you believe in **Jason Pierre-Paul**? In 2011 he was the top-performing lineman, leading all players at his position with 86 tackles while also finishing 4th in the league in sacks (16.5). He's battled injuries the last two years, but the Giants are banking on a comeback. They let Justin Tuck walk and didn't add any pass rushers of note. Pierre-Paul is just 25, and he's in a contract year.

Cameron Wake has never really gotten his due in Miami; now he's joined by **Olivier Vernon** on the all-underrated team. The three other linemen with more than 55 tackles and 11 sacks (Watt, Quinn and Hardy) are all bigger names. Coming off a breakout season (his first as a starter) Vernon should start getting more pub if he can put together another good season.

Kyle Williams comes off a career-high 10.5 sacks for Buffalo, but he's long been a force in IDP leagues. He's put up at least 66 tackles in three of his last five seasons; only six linemen had more than his 68 a year ago.

Back in 2010, it seemed clear the Lions made the right choice selecting Ndamukong Suh over **Gerald McCoy**. Or did they? After a slow, injury-marred start to his career, McCoy had a breakout 2013, with 50 tackles and 9.5 sacks. (Suh had 4 fewer sacks and one fewer tackle.) The Bucs had a nice offseason in terms of collecting talent, which should make it even easier for McCoy to build on last season.

Only four players have more sacks than **Greg Hardy** over the last two seasons: Watt, Quinn, Mathis and Aldon Smith. Probably 60 percent of those players will be suspended at the start of the season. That includes Hardy, who after a couple of off-field incidents, should be down for a couple of games. More or less, and he'll rise or fall a couple of spots in our rankings.

There's something to be said for consistency, and that's **Calais Campbell** all over. He's averaged 60 tackles and 7 sacks over the last five seasons, and been within a dozen tackles and 2 sacks of those averages in either direction in each of those years. That helps with the projections; his ceiling isn't dramatic, but he has a very high floor.

Chris Long is only the 2nd-most prolific pass rusher in St. Louis these days, but he's been a very steady performer: at least 8.5 sacks in four straight seasons. He'll probably benefit from Robert Quinn seeing more defensive attention this season, and he routinely posts serviceable tackle numbers. He's averaged 37 in his six seasons, finishing within 6 of that total in all but one of those years.

The Super Bowl champs have spoken, letting Chris Clemons leave in free agency while locking up **Michael Bennett**. He's four years younger and totaled 8.5 sacks last year while starting only three games. Free agent departures will probably mean a larger role for

Bennett this season, giving him a chance at 40-plus tackles (his average as a starter in Tampa Bay the two previous seasons).

Tough to get behind selecting **Ndamukong Suh**, one of the league's most hated players. Will he kick or step on some fallen opponent, earning himself a suspension? But Suh has played every game in each of the last two seasons, and the Lions have added a couple of other quality linemen to help take the pressure off. About 50 combined tackles and a run at 8-10 sacks looks right.

Chris Clemons was coming off a torn ACL and part of a rotation in Seattle last season, so it's easy to forget he was recently one of the game's dominant pass rushers. In three seasons as a starter from 2010-2012, he averaged 47 tackles while putting up 11-plus sacks in each. Now he goes to sack-starved Jacksonville, and should play close to full-time (while facing a distinctly lower level of divisional competition than in the NFC West, in terms of opposing quarterbacks, offensive lines, or both). He turns 33 during the season, though, so we're not promising a return to previous form.

LINEBACKERS

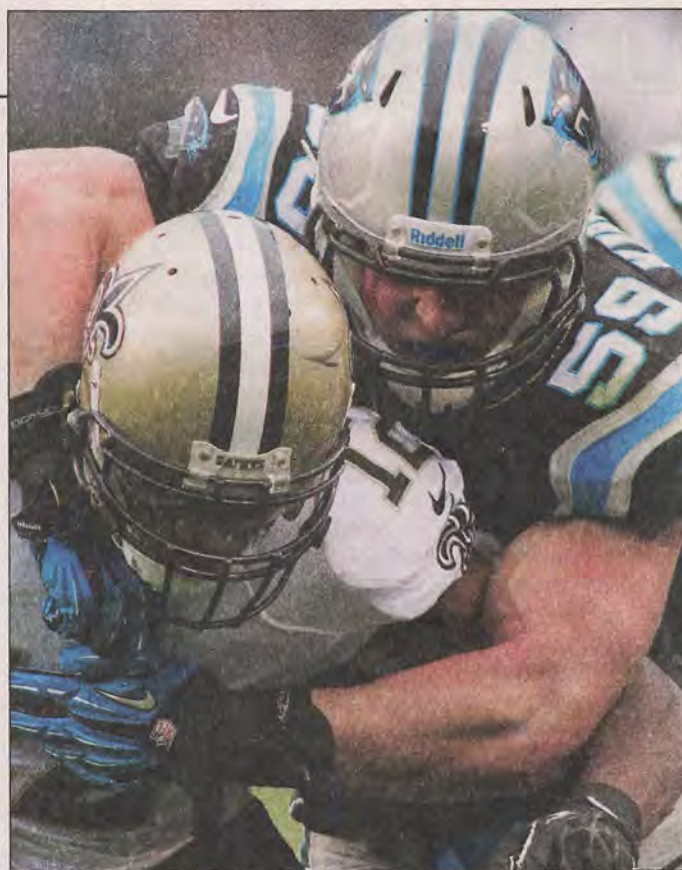
1 Carolina has elite talent across its defensive line, and those players' ability to occupy blockers plays a factor in freeing up **Luke Kuechly** to rack up tackles. He has 320 tackles in the last two years – 19 more than anyone else in that timeframe (and only five others are within 60). It also helps that he's simply really fast and really good – he's the new Ray Lewis. All but one of the other six middle linebackers coming off 140-tackle seasons have either moved outside, have a new coordinator or are coming off an injury. Kuechly also is good in coverage; he intercepted 4 passes last year.

2 Patrick Willis and Jerod Mayo. Those are the only two players in the last 10 years who had more tackles than **Vontaze Burfict** had for Cincinnati last season (171). And Burfict doesn't even play middle linebacker, which is where the highest tackle numbers typically occur. Undrafted in 2012 due to off-field concerns and a poor combine, Burfict can join Kurt Warner, Warren Moon and Priest Holmes among the best players never to hear their names called on draft day. The Bengals have a new defensive coordinator to replace departed Mike Zimmer, but that shouldn't be a big deal. Paul Guenther was Burfict's position coach last year and is well aware of how best to use him.

3 Like Burfict, **Lavonte David** plays one of the outside linebacker positions. And yet, he's led Tampa Bay in tackles in each of the last two seasons – his average of 142 is considerably more than Mason Foster's 99 – while making plays getting after the quarterback. Last year he supplemented those tackle numbers by racking up 7 sacks and 5 interceptions, and although the defense will be changed under a new coaching staff, Leslie Frazier has some experience utilizing a playmaking outside linebacker in his defense. He got some great seasons out of Chad Greenway in Minnesota.

4 **Kiko Alonso** was a sensation as a rookie, with 159 tackles; he led the league in assists (72). Now the Bills say they're moving him from middle linebacker to an outside spot, to take advantage of his playmaking ability (4 interceptions and 2 sacks last year). "With his athletic ability, speed, and instincts, why limit him by having to take on those big guards?" says GM Doug Whaley. "Let's cover him up and let him run and hit." It's a mild worry (his tackles will decrease), but he should make more big plays.

5 **Paul Posluszny** hasn't ranked outside the top 11 in tackles since 2009. It was never clear exactly why Buffalo let their middle linebacker get away in free agency, but his loss has been Jacksonville's gain. As has Jacksonville's anemic offense: only Philadelphia, which tended to operate at a very fast pace, had a lower time of possession last year than Jacksonville (just 27 minutes



JEREMY BREWARD/USA TODAY SPORTS

Carolina's Luke Kuechly is a tackling machine – a league-high 10 per game in his first two seasons.

per game). The Jaguars' defense spent more time on the field than most others, a factor in Posluszny's 162 tackles, trailing only Burfict. The Jaguars made some savvy moves in the offseason, but it will be another year or two before that pays off in a notably better offense.

6 NaVorro Bowman tore up his knee in the NFC Championship Game, and is iffy enough for the start of the season that we're not even ranking last year's 5th-leading tackler in our top 20. But **Patrick Willis** should benefit; his numbers have trended downward in recent years as Bowman has emerged. Injuries and age are also factors, of course, but Willis just turned 29 – not ready to be shunted into a lesser role, and until Bowman gets healthy, San Francisco won't have a player capable of doing it. Willis averages 131 tackles per season over his seven-year career, a total he should approach again this season.

7 Some defenses are on the field more because their offense is worse, while Chip Kelly's is on the field more because Philly's offense is so fast. The Eagles allowed a league-high 1,150 plays – over a hundred more than over half of the other teams. That helped middle linebacker **DeMeco Ryans** put up his top tackle numbers since his first two seasons back in Houston, while also setting career highs in sacks (4) and interceptions (2).

8 He comes off one of his best seasons, but there's not much love for **Karlos Dansby**, since he'll be playing for this third team in three years. The Cardinals, after losing Daryl Washington to suspension, probably wish they hadn't let him get away. In Cleveland, Dansby and his average of 128 tackles over the last two seasons will replace D'Qwell Jackson, who averaged 130 tackles in those same two seasons. Very high floor for Dansby.

9 Playing on a lesser team sometimes yields high tackle numbers; those players are on the field more. Playing on a superior team yields more opportunities to make big plays, which probably

Defense

helps **Bobby Wagner**. The Seattle middle linebacker has put up strong tackle numbers in his first two seasons (an average of 130 despite missing two games) and has also chipped in 7 sacks and 5 interceptions. He's also younger than most of the players in our top 10 – his best football is still ahead of him.

10 Only four active linebackers have gone over 100 tackles five years in a row, they're in all in our top 20, including Detroit's **Stephen Tulloch**. You've got to play at a high level for a lengthy period of time, and you've got to be durable. He's not the most exciting pick (not many big plays, though he does come off a season with a career-high 3.5 sacks) but he'll likely outperform where he's drafted.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

If the Rams were as successful picking wide receivers as they are picking defensive players, they'd have won a lot more games in recent years. **James Laurinaitis** has five straight seasons of 114-plus tackles in the middle of their defense, while mixing in some big plays – 12 sacks and 9 interceptions. The outside pass rush from Robert Quinn and Chris Long helps occupy blockers, enabling Laurinaitis to do his work inside.

Chad Greenway is a strong side linebacker, and that position typically covers the tight end (and posts lower tackle numbers). But Greenway has long defied that convention in Minnesota's defense, averaging 145 tackles over the last four seasons, tops in the league. In Mike Zimmer's defense he'll play on the weak side and also some middle linebacker (Minnesota will likely have a lesser player there), giving him more playmaking opportunities. He had 3 sacks and 3 interceptions last year.

Just a few years back **Derrick Johnson** wasn't even a starter in Kansas City; something about him rubbed Todd Haley the wrong way. That motivated him to the point where he's put up his best numbers by far (and multiple Pro Bowls) in the last four years. He matched a career-high with 4.5 sacks last season. With Kansas City featuring several new faces on defense, he could be counted on more in 2014 than he has been in the past.

Lot of moving parts in New England's defense. They switch from 4-3 to 3-4 fronts, with the same players moving from the line to linebacker and inside to outside. **Jerod Mayo** is about the only constant, averaging 9 tackles per game for his career, putting him in the mix for 150 tackles if he can stay healthy (he missed 10 games last year with a pectoral injury, but just 2 in the previous three seasons). Seems like he's been around forever, but is in his prime at 28 years old.

Few teams have a greater history of excellence at linebacker than the Steelers. As players age, others step in and pile up 100-tackle seasons where the previous ones left off. **Lawrence Timmons** has emerged as their leader at this position, with 106 and 126 tackles the last two years, with 9 sacks (excellent for an inside linebacker).

At 32, **Daryl Smith** isn't getting any younger, and he's not a fiery leader like Ray Lewis. But he's the best inside linebacker in a defense that typically churns out 100-tackle players. The Ravens locked him up with a 4-year, \$16 million deal in the offseason, so they're comfortable he's got a few more strong seasons in him. He'll get chances to make plays, too: 5 sacks, 3 interceptions and 2 forced fumbles in 2013.

Maybe **A.J. Hawk** is a late bloomer. After being just a guy putting up workman-like tackle numbers his first six seasons, the veteran has posted his two best years the last two, averaging 119 tackles and 4 sacks. Part of it is that he used to be overshadowed by the likes of Nick Barnett and Desmond Bishop, sometimes playing on only two downs; now the team is using lesser players like Brad Jones next to him, and he's a full-time guy.

D'Qwell Jackson is 30, and he might be starting to slip some, but it's too early to write him off in IDP leagues. Over the last three seasons, only three players have more tackles than Jackson (417). He's in a new defense in Indianapolis, but Pat Angerer and Jerrell Freeman

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CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL/USA TODAY SPORTS

Eric Weddle tends to be around the football. He piled up 115 tackles last year, 2nd among defensive backs.

put up seasons with huge tackle numbers in Indy the last three years.

The Rams snagged **Alec Ogletree** in the first round of the 2013 draft, and he immediately made them look good, starting all season on the outside and racking up 117 tackles. There's some opportunism there, too: he forced 6 fumbles and had a 98-yard interception return for a touchdown, plus another pick in the preseason. His best football is ahead of him; he won't turn 23 until September.

One more player who looks like a virtual lock for 100-plus tackles is **Curtis Lofton**, since he's done it in each of the last five seasons. The Falcons let him get away in free agency, and the Saints quite happily plugged him into the middle of their defense. He's rewarded them with 120-plus tackles in each of the last two years. New Orleans has been improving both its pass rush and secondary the last two offseasons, which could see opponents trying the run more, and giving Lofton more opportunities for tackles.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

1 Fantasy scoring tends to reward lesser defensive backs. Joe Haden and Darrelle Revis don't get points for quarterbacks not throwing their way. With that in mind, you want to target the players who get more chances for tackles and interceptions, and those are not your shutdown corners but rather productive safeties in bottom-5 pass defenses like **Eric Weddle**. Weddle hasn't missed a game in four seasons, and posted two of the three highest tackle totals in his seven-year career the last two years – an average of 106 those seasons.

2 **Barry Church** was the only defensive back with more tackles than Weddle last year. That's a fringe benefit of playing on a truly awful Dallas defense. So what if all those tackles are 10-15 yards downfield; at least somebody is making them. Among defensive backs the last three years, only Antoine Bethea, with 139 in 2011, has more tackles in a season than Church.

<http://www.fantasyindex.com/>

3 It didn't take long for second-rounder **Johnathan Cyprien** to make an impact in Jacksonville; he racked up 104 tackles as a rookie last season. The Jaguars have greatly improved their pass rush, and that could give Cyprien a shot at making more big plays on hurried throws. The defensive changes make him a little riskier a pick, but there's a lot of upside in the youngster.

4 The 49ers swapped out Donte Whitner for former Colt **Antoine Bethea**, and while that might be a slight downgrade (Whitner is a more feared hitter), Bethea has been the better fantasy option. His average of 116 tackles over the past three seasons leads all defensive backs, and he's one of only two safeties (along with Ryan Clark) to put up at least 100 tackles in each of those years. In a more aggressive San Francisco defense, he might get more chances to make big plays as well.

5 For consistency and production at safety, few are better than **Antrel Rolle**. Rolle hasn't missed a start in four seasons with the Giants, and has put up nearly identical tackle numbers the last three years: 96, 96 and 98. Perhaps he's also getting wiler with age, posting career highs in both interceptions (6) and sacks (2) a year ago.

6 The Saints were 4th-best in sacks and 4th-worst in take-aways last year, which makes their signing of **Jairus Byrd** so intriguing. In Buffalo he routinely produced turnovers, with 22 interceptions and 11 forced fumbles in four and a half seasons. He averaged 88 tackles in the three seasons prior to last year. Durability is a concern; Byrd missed five games with a foot injury last year, then underwent a supposedly minor back surgery in May.

7 If you look only at season-long production, you might rank **Harrison Smith** too low. He had only 58 tackles last year, but that came in eight games (he missed half the season with a turf-toe injury). His per-game tackle numbers slotted him just outside the top 5 defensive backs, and he's a playmaker, with a pair of defensive touchdowns and 5 interceptions in just a season and a half of action. Minnesota has a new coaching staff but mostly the same defensive players, and Smith will likely be required to shoulder a big load in a talent-thin secondary.

8 Just behind Antoine Bethea in tackles for defensive backs the last three seasons is **Morgan Burnett** (326), who led the league with 123 in 2012. He missed three games last year, and Green Bay played with fewer leads in its games without Aaron Rodgers, but don't forget him on draft day. He's a legitimate candidate to finish as the top IDP at his position.

9 Don't tell Richard Sherman, but he's not the best fantasy option in Seattle's Legion of Boom. That's **Earl Thomas**, the roving safety who comes off his best season in every respect: 105 tackles, 5 interceptions and 2 forced fumbles, all career highs. He's kind of a mold-buster near the top of our board in that Seattle didn't have a bad pass defense but the league's top-ranked group. Thomas' sure tackling and playmaking ability are a large part of the reason why.

10 **Eric Berry** missed nearly all of 2011 with a torn ACL, and that probably played a role in him being less than 100 percent the following year. He looked just fine last season, with 3.5 sacks and 3 interceptions, including 2 TDs. His tackle numbers weren't great – 74 – but Kansas City will be breaking in a new starter at the other safety spot, so he might be more productive this season.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

Denver had a bottom-5 pass defense a year ago, so they addressed that in the offseason with Aqib Talib and **T.J. Ward**. Ward comes off a big season in Cleveland with 112 tackles; only two defensive backs had more. In Denver's defense, multiple players shared that spot last season, combining for more than 100 tackles. That's a rea-

sonable target area for Ward. He's not a big playmaker (5 interceptions in four seasons), so downgrade him some if turnovers are more important in your scoring system.

Detroit replaced Louis Delmas with **James Ihedigbo**, whose first 100-tackle season last year made him one of only 11 defensive backs to turn the trick. Maybe something clicked for him last year, his first as a 16-game starter; he recorded the first 3 interceptions of his career. Tough to imagine him improving on those numbers, but he looks a like a solid prospect.

He's not a big name, but **Reshad Jones** has quietly emerged as one of the league's more productive safeties. His 107 tackles last year ranked 5th among defensive backs. His numbers in that area have steadily improved in each of the last three seasons. He'd be higher on our list if he started making more plays: 4 interceptions in a contract year in 2012, but just 1 in each of his other two seasons as a starter, including last season.

Miami's other safety, **Louis Delmas**, won't make as many tackles, but he'll provide the playmaking that Jones lacks. He's a big hitter who recorded 3 interceptions last season, while playing at the back end of a Detroit defense that got very little pressure on opposing passers (bottom-5 in sacks). Miami hasn't finished lower than 11th since 2007, so look for Delmas to get a few more chances to pick off passes.

As with any other fantasy position, winning with IDPs depends on securing as many difference-makers as possible. **Tyrann Mathieu** looked like one of those players on the field last year, with 68 tackles, 2 picks, a sack and a forced fumble in 13 games. The Honey Badger tore two knee ligaments in Week 14 though, and is no lock to be ready for Week 1. If he's out there making plays in the exhibitions, he'll probably find himself in our top 10.

With Jairus Byrd gone, **Aaron Williams** will take on more responsibilities in Buffalo's secondary. He's even a candidate to move from strong safety, where he totaled 82 tackles and 4 interceptions a year ago, to Byrd's old spot. If that happens, his tackle numbers should go down, but he'll have more chances to make big plays.

Aside from being the guy who specializes in knocking out Patriots – Tom Brady, Wes Welker and Rob Gronkowski – **Bernard Pollard** hasn't really generated much loyalty over the years. He's played for four different teams in the last six seasons. But he's averaged 97 tackles over the last five years, 4th-best among defensive backs. Another season where he makes a run at 100 tackles should be in the cards.

The people in your league sorting through last year's statistics on draft night will probably overlook **Tyvon Branch**. Branch broke his leg early last season and didn't play again. But he's healthy now, and there's considerable upside with the Oakland safety. He cleared 100 tackles from 2009-2011, and reached 94 in 2012 (while missing two games). Branch is a guy who will probably be available later in IDP drafts than his potential production warrants.

It's tough for cornerbacks to climb into the top 20 defensive backs in terms of fantasy scoring. They don't get as many chances to make tackles; only two, including **Prince Amukamara**, ranked in the top 25 last season. The Giants have had a cornerback go over 70 tackles in three of the last five seasons (Terrell Thomas twice did it twice). Amukamara has come along nicely since being a first-round pick three years ago, and supplemented his 85 tackles a year ago by breaking up 14 passes – twice as many as the previous season. Just 3 interceptions in three seasons, or we'd rank him even higher.

Projected starters for each NFL defense entering training camp, as well as their statistics from the 2013 season, are available in an Excel file which can be downloaded at www.fantasyindex.com. Look in the Toolbox area of the home page. You may need to scroll down to find it.

Defensive Stat Leaders

TAKEAWAY AND SACKS, 2012-2013

Team-by-team interception, fumble, sack and takeaway totals for the 2012-2013 seasons:

	13 Int	13 Fum	13 Sack	13 Take	12 Int	12 Fum	12 Sack	12 Take
1. Seattle	28	11	44	39	18	13	36	31
2. Kansas City	21	15	47	36	7	6	27	13
3. Cincinnati	20	11	43	31	14	16	51	30
4. Philadelphia	19	12	37	31	8	5	30	13
5. Tampa Bay	21	10	35	31	18	8	27	26
6. Arizona	20	10	47	30	22	11	38	33
7. Buffalo	23	7	57	30	12	9	36	21
8. Carolina	20	10	60	30	11	12	39	23
9. San Francisco	18	12	38	30	14	11	38	25
10. New England	17	12	48	29	20	21	37	41
11. New York Giants	17	12	34	29	21	14	33	35
12. St. Louis	14	15	53	29	17	4	52	21
13. Chicago	19	9	31	28	24	20	41	44
14. Dallas	15	13	34	28	7	9	34	16
15. Indianapolis	15	12	42	27	12	3	32	15
16. Denver	17	9	41	26	16	8	52	24
17. Washington	16	10	36	26	21	10	32	31
18. Tennessee	13	12	36	25	19	5	39	24
19. Baltimore	16	8	40	24	13	12	37	25
20. Miami	18	6	42	24	10	6	42	16
21. Detroit	15	7	33	22	11	6	34	17
22. Green Bay	11	11	44	22	18	5	47	23
23. Oakland	9	13	38	22	11	8	25	19
24. Atlanta	10	11	32	21	20	11	29	31
25. Cleveland	14	7	40	21	17	12	38	29
26. Jacksonville	11	10	31	21	12	11	20	23
27. Minnesota	12	8	41	20	10	12	44	22
28. Pittsburgh	10	10	34	20	10	10	37	20
29. New Orleans	12	7	49	19	15	11	30	26
30. San Diego	11	6	35	17	14	14	38	28
31. New York Jets	13	2	41	15	11	12	30	23
32. Houston	7	4	32	11	15	14	44	29

2013 INTERCEPTION LEADERS

Pos	Int	Pos	Int
CB Richard Sherman, Sea.	8	FS Quintin Demps, K.C.	4
CB Brandon Boykin, Phil.	6	CB Corey Graham, Balt.	4
OLB DeAndre Levy, Det.	6	CB Brent Grimes, Mia.	4
SS Antrel Rolle, NYG	6	CB Joe Haden, Clev.	4
CB Tramaine Brock, S.F.	5	CB DeAngelo Hall, Wash.	4
OLB Lavonte David, T.B.	5	CB Tim Jennings, Chi.	4
FS Tashaun Gipson, Clev	5	MLB Luke Kuechly, Car.	4
CB Logan Ryan, N.E.	5	MLB Sean Lee, Dall.	4
FS Earl Thomas, Sea.	5	FS Jim Leonhard, Buff.	4
CB Alterraun Verner, Tenn.	5	CB Keenan Lewis, N.O.	4
MLB Kiko Alonso, Buff.	4	CB Byron Maxwell, Sea.	4
FS Darius Butler, Ind.	4	FS Mike Mitchell, Car.	4
FS Jairus Byrd, Buff.	4	CB Dimitri Patterson, Mia.	4
ILB Karlos Dansby, Ariz.	4	FS Eric Reid, S.F.	4

2013 SACK LEADERS

Pos	Sacks	Pos	Sacks
OLB Robert Mathis, Ind.	19.5	DE Muhammad Wilkerson, NYJ	10.5
DE Robert Quinn, St.L.	19.0	DT Kyle Williams, Buff.	10.5
DE Greg Hardy, Car.	15.0	OLB Jerry Hughes, Buff.	10.0
DE Mario Williams, Buff.	13.0	OLB Brian Orakpo, Wash.	10.0
DE Cameron Jordan, N.O.	12.5	OLB Calvin Pace, NYJ	10.0
OLB Junior Galette, N.O.	12.0	DE Shaun Phillips, Den.	10.0
OLB John Abraham, Ariz.	11.5	OLB Terrell Suggs, Balt.	10.0
DE Jared Allen, Minn.	11.5	OLB Elvis Dumervil, Balt.	9.5
DE Chandler Jones, N.E.	11.5	DT Gerald McCoy, T.B.	9.5
DE Olivier Vernon, Mia.	11.5	DE Calais Campbell, Ariz.	9.0
OLB Tamba Hali, K.C.	11.0	DE Brian Robison, Minn.	9.0
DT Jason Hatcher, Dall.	11.0	DE Michael Bennett, Sea.	8.5
OLB Justin Houston, K.C.	11.0	OLB Ahmad Brooks, S.F.	8.5
DE Charles Johnson, Car.	11.0	OLB Ryan Kerrigan, Wash.	8.5
DE Justin Tuck, NYG	11.0	DE Chris Long, St.L.	8.5
DT Jurrell Casey, Tenn.	10.5	OLB Aldon Smith, S.F.	8.5
DE J.J. Watt, Hou.	10.5	DE Cameron Wake, Mia.	8.5

2013 TACKLE LEADERS: DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	Solo	Assist	Total		Solo	Assist	Total
Rob Ninkovich, N.E.	42	49	91	Pat Sims, Oak.	41	13	54
J.J. Watt, Hou.	65	15	80	Chris Jones, N.E.	25	29	54
Chandler Jones, N.E.	40	39	79	Joe Vellano, N.E.	20	34	54
S. Richardson, NYJ	42	36	78	Arthur Jones, Balt.	28	25	53
Marcell Dareus, Buff.	46	25	71	Tony McDaniel, Sea.	23	30	53
Lamar Houston, Oak.	56	13	69	Jared Allen, Minn.	33	19	52
Kyle Williams, Buff.	42	26	68	Ahtyba Rubin, Clev.	25	27	52
Damon Harrison, NYJ	36	30	66	Domata Peko, Cin.	24	28	52
Adrian Clayborn, T.B.	43	21	64	Haloti Ngata, Balt.	23	29	52
M. Wilkerson, NYJ	43	20	63	Dontari Poe, K.C.	43	8	51
Justin Tuck, NYG	41	22	63	Gerald McCoy, T.B.	35	15	50
Cedric Thornton, Phil.	48	12	60	Kendall Langford, St.L.	36	13	49
Greg Hardy, Car.	39	20	59	Randy Starks, Mia.	36	13	49
Cameron Heyward, Pitt.	35	24	59	Ndamukong Suh, Det.	36	13	49
Linval Joseph, NYG	33	26	59	Justin Smith, S.F.	32	17	49
Calais Campbell, Ariz.	45	13	58	Earl Mitchell, Hou.	30	18	48
Carlos Dunlap, Cin.	39	19	58	Osi Umenyiora, Atl.	31	16	47
Robert Quinn, St.L.	50	7	57	Cameron Jordan, N.O.	29	18	47
Olivier Vernon, Mia.	46	11	57	Willie Young, Det.	29	18	47
Michael Johnson, Cin.	35	21	56	Michael Brockers, St.L.	38	8	46
Akiem Hicks, N.O.	29	27	56	Darnell Dockett, Ariz.	36	10	46
Jurrell Casey, Tenn.	38	17	55	Jonathan Massaquoi, Atl.	29	17	46

2013 TACKLE LEADERS: LINEBACKERS

	Solo	Assist	Total		Solo	Assist	Total
Vontaze Burfict, Cin.	114	57	171	Philip Wheeler, Mia.	83	35	118
Paul Posluszny, Jac.	122	40	162	Alec Ogletree, St.L.	94	23	117
Kiko Alonso, Buff.	87	72	159	James Laurinaitis, St.L.	85	31	116
Luke Kuechly, Car.	93	63	156	Perry Riley, Wash.	72	43	115
NaVorro Bowman, S.F.	120	25	145	Erin Henderson, Minn.	69	43	112
Lavonte David, T.B.	107	38	145	Nick Roach, Oak.	83	29	112
D'Owett Jackson, Clev.	75	66	141	London Fletcher, Wash.	63	48	111
Stephen Tulloch, Det.	93	42	135	DeMario Davis, NYJ	63	44	107
Chad Greenway, Minn.	83	51	134	Derrick Johnson, K.C.	95	12	107
Danny Trevathan, Den.	88	41	129	Mychal Kendricks, Phil.	81	25	106
DeMeco Ryans, Phil.	102	25	127	Kevin Burnett, Oak.	83	22	105
Paul Worrlow, Atl.	79	48	127	Patrick Willis, S.F.	82	22	104
Jerrell Freeman, Ind.	83	43	126	James Anderson, Chi.	85	17	102
Lawrence Timmons, Pitt.	86	40	126	Dannell Ellerbe, Mia.	70	31	101
Curtis Lofton, N.O.	82	43	125	Sean Lee, Dall.	68	31	99
David Harris, NYJ	70	54	124	Dont'a Hightower, N.E.	55	42	97
Thomas Davis, Car.	85	38	123	Bruce Carter, Dall.	73	23	96
Daryl Smith, Balt.	57	66	123	Jon Beason, NYG	65	28	93
Karlos Dansby, Ariz.	114	8	122	Mason Foster, T.B.	63	29	92
Bobby Wagner, Sea.	72	48	120	Zach Brown, Tenn.	72	19	91
DeAndre Levy, Det.	85	34	119	David Hawthorne, N.O.	60	31	91
A.J. Hawk, G.B.	74	44	118	Darryl Sharpton, Hou.	56	31	87

2013 TACKLE LEADERS: DEFENSIVE BACKS

	Solo	Assist	Total		Solo	Assist	Total
Barry Church, Dall.	107	28	135	William Moore, Atl.	67	19	86
Eric Weddle, S.D.	88	27	115	Prince Amukamara, NYG	76	9	85
T.J. Ward, Clev.	75	37	112	Andrew Sendejo, Minn.	52	32	84
Antoine Bethea, Ind.	80	30	110	Tramon Williams, G.B.	61	22	83
Reshad Jones, Mia.	84	23	107	Nate Allen, Phil.	59	23	82
Earl Thomas, Sea.	78	27	105	Michael Griffin, Tenn.	61	21	82
Ryan Clark, Pitt.	61	43	104	Aaron Williams, Buff.	60	22	82
John Cyprien, Jac.	87	17	104	Reed Doughty, Wash.	47	33	80
James Ihedigbo, Balt.	63	38	101	Steve Gregory, N.E.	50	29	79
Dawan Landry, NYJ	62	38	100	Rodney McLeod, St.L.	63	16	79
Major Wright, Chi.	78	22	100	Kenny Vaccaro, N.O.	62	17	79
Kam Chancellor, Sea.	65	34	99	DeAngelo Hall, Wash.	57	21	78
Bernard Pollard, Tenn.	77	22	99	Yeremiah Bell, Ariz.	61	16	77
Antrel Rolle, NYG	80	18	98	Matt Elam, Balt.	54	23	77
Charles Woodson, Oak.	75	22	97	Marcus Gilchrist, S.D.	59	18	77
Morgan Burnett, G.B.	60	36	96	Will Hill, NYG	60	17	77
Tashaun Gipson, Clev.	63	32	95	Ryan Mundy, NYG	50	27	77
Chris Clemons, Mia.	63	30	93	Eric Reid, S.F.	62	15	77
Josh Wilson, Wash.	68	25	93	Brandian Ross, Oak.	56	19	75
Chris Conte, Chi.	73	17	90	Jamarca Sanford, Minn.	58	17	75
Mark Barron, T.B.	70	18	88	Eric Berry, K.C.	66	8	74
LaRon Landry, Ind.	62	25	87	Corey Graham, Balt.	56	18	74

Defensive Player Rankings

OVERALL RANKINGS

Rk	Tm	Bye	Pos	Player
1.	CAR	12	MLB	Luke Kuechly
2.	HOU	10	DE	J.J. Watt
3.	CIN	4	WLB	Vontaze Burfict
4.	TB	7	WLB	Lavonte David
5.	BUF	9	WLB	Kiko Alonso
6.	JAC	11	MLB	Paul Posluszny
7.	NE	10	DE	Rob Ninkovich
8.	STL	4	DE	Robert Quinn
9.	SF	8	ILB	Patrick Willis
10.	PHI	7	ILB	DeMeco Ryans
11.	NYJ	11	DE	S. Richardson
12.	CLE	4	ILB	Karlos Dansby
13.	NE	10	DE	Chandler Jones
14.	SEA	4	MLB	Bobby Wagner
15.	NO	6	DE	Cameron Jordan
16.	DET	9	MLB	Stephen Tulloch
17.	STL	4	MLB	James Laurinaitis
18.	MIN	10	OLB	Chad Greenway
19.	KC	6	ILB	Derrick Johnson
20.	NE	10	MLB	Jerod Mayo
21.	PIT	12	ILB	L. Timmons
22.	MIA	5	DE	Cameron Wake
23.	BAL	11	ILB	Daryl Smith
24.	GB	9	ILB	A.J. Hawk
25.	SD	10	FS	Eric Weddle
26.	IND	10	ILB	D'Qwell Jackson
27.	STL	4	OLB	Alec Ogletree
28.	DAL	11	FS	Barry Church
29.	CHI	9	DE	Lamarr Houston
30.	NO	6	MLB	Curtis Lofton
31.	PHI	7	ILB	Mychal Kendricks
32.	CAR	12	SLB	Thomas Davis
33.	DEN	4	DE	DeMarcus Ware
34.	MIN	10	DE	Everson Griffen
35.	NYG	8	DE	Jason Pierre-Paul
36.	IND	10	ILB	Jerrell Freeman
37.	DEN	4	WLB	Danny Trevathan
38.	JAC	11	SS	John Cyprien
39.	MIA	5	DE	Olivier Vernon
40.	NYG	8	SS	Antrel Rolle
41.	SF	8	SS	Antoine Bethea
42.	WAS	10	ILB	Perry Riley
43.	NO	6	FS	Jairus Byrd
44.	BUF	9	DT	Kyle Williams
45.	SD	10	ILB	Donald Butler
46.	SF	8	ILB	NaVorro Bowman
47.	CAR	12	DE	Greg Hardy
48.	TB	7	DT	Gerald McCoy
49.	MIN	10	FS	Harrison Smith
50.	GB	9	SS	Morgan Burnett
51.	TB	7	MLB	Mason Foster
52.	ARI	4	DE	Calais Campbell
53.	NYJ	11	ILB	David Harris
54.	SEA	4	FS	Earl Thomas
55.	STL	4	DE	Chris Long
56.	KC	6	SS	Eric Berry
57.	SEA	4	DE	Michael Bennett
58.	DET	9	OLB	DeAndre Levy
59.	DET	9	DT	Ndamukong Suh
60.	TEN	9	MLB	Wesley Woodyard
61.	DEN	4	SLB	Von Miller
62.	DEN	4	SS	T.J. Ward
63.	DET	9	SS	James Ihedigbo
64.	MIA	5	MLB	Koa Misi
65.	JAC	11	DE	Chris Clemons

DEFENSIVE LINE

Rk	Tm	Bye	Pos	Player
1.	HOU	10	DE	J.J. Watt
2.	NE	10	DE	Rob Ninkovich
3.	STL	4	DE	Robert Quinn
4.	NYJ	11	DE	S. Richardson
5.	NE	10	DE	Chandler Jones
6.	NO	6	DE	Cameron Jordan
7.	MIA	5	DE	Cameron Wake
8.	CHI	9	DE	Lamarr Houston
9.	DEN	4	DE	DeMarcus Ware
10.	MIN	10	DE	Everson Griffen
11.	NYG	8	DE	Jason Pierre-Paul
12.	MIA	5	DE	Olivier Vernon
13.	BUF	9	DT	Kyle Williams
14.	CAR	12	DE	Greg Hardy
15.	TB	7	DT	Gerald McCoy
16.	ARI	4	DE	Calais Campbell
17.	STL	4	DE	Chris Long
18.	SEA	4	DE	Michael Bennett
19.	DET	9	DT	Ndamukong Suh
20.	JAC	11	DE	Chris Clemons
21.	SF	8	DE	Justin Smith
22.	BUF	9	DE	Mario Williams
23.	CHI	9	DE	Jared Allen
24.	CIN	4	DT	Geno Atkins
25.	NYJ	11	DE	M. Wilkerson
26.	CAR	12	DE	Charles Johnson
27.	TEN	9	DE	Jurrell Casey
28.	BUF	9	DT	Marcell Dareus
29.	CIN	4	DE	Carlos Dunlap
30.	MIN	10	DE	Brian Robison
31.	TB	7	DE	Michael Johnson
32.	DET	9	DE	Ezekiel Ansah
33.	OAK	5	DE	Justin Tuck
34.	SEA	4	DE	Cliff Avril
35.	ATL	9	DE	Tyson Jackson
36.	TB	7	DE	Adrian Clayborn
37.	GB	9	DE	Julius Peppers
38.	BUF	9	DE	Jerry Hughes
39.	PIT	12	DE	Cameron Heyward
40.	DAL	11	DE	George Selvie
41.	ARI	4	DE	Darnell Dockett
42.	KC	6	NT	Dontari Poe
43.	PHI	7	DE	Cedric Thornton
44.	STL	4	DT	Michael Brockers
45.	MIN	10	DT	Linval Joseph
46.	STL	4	DT	Kendall Langford
47.	DAL	11	DE	D. Lawrence
48.	MIA	5	DT	Randy Starks
49.	JAC	11	DE	Jason Babin
50.	JAC	11	DE	Red Bryant
51.	NO	6	DE	Akiem Hicks
52.	CLE	4	DE	Ahtyba Rubin
53.	NYJ	11	NT	Damon Harrison
54.	CAR	12	DT	Star Lotulelei
55.	NYG	8	DE	Mathias Kiwanuka
56.	TEN	9	DE	Derrick Morgan
57.	OAK	5	DT	Pat Sims
58.	SD	10	DE	Corey Liuget
59.	IND	10	DE	Arthur Jones
60.	ATL	9	NT	Corey Peters
61.	DAL	11	DE	Jeremy Mincey
62.	BAL	11	DE	Haloti Ngata
63.	CHI	9	DE	Willie Young
64.	JAC	11	DT	Sen'Derrick Marks
65.	TEN	9	DE	Ropati Pitoitua

LINEBACKERS

Rk	Tm	Bye	Pos	Player
1.	CAR	12	MLB	Luke Kuechly
2.	CIN	4	WLB	Vontaze Burfict
3.	TB	7	WLB	Lavonte David
4.	BUF	9	WLB	Kiko Alonso
5.	JAC	11	MLB	Paul Posluszny
6.	SF	8	ILB	Patrick Willis
7.	PHI	7	ILB	DeMeco Ryans
8.	CLE	4	ILB	Karlos Dansby
9.	SEA	4	MLB	Bobby Wagner
10.	DET	9	MLB	Stephen Tulloch
11.	STL	4	MLB	James Laurinaitis
12.	MIN	10	OLB	Chad Greenway
13.	KC	6	ILB	Derrick Johnson
14.	NE	10	MLB	Jerod Mayo
15.	PIT	12	ILB	L. Timmons
16.	BAL	11	ILB	Daryl Smith
17.	GB	9	ILB	A.J. Hawk
18.	IND	10	ILB	D'Qwell Jackson
19.	STL	4	OLB	Alec Ogletree
20.	NO	6	MLB	Curtis Lofton
21.	PHI	7	ILB	Mychal Kendricks
22.	CAR	12	SLB	Thomas Davis
23.	IND	10	ILB	Jerrell Freeman
24.	DEN	4	WLB	Danny Trevathan
25.	WAS	10	ILB	Perry Riley
26.	SD	10	ILB	Donald Butler
27.	SF	8	ILB	NaVorro Bowman
28.	TB	7	MLB	Mason Foster
29.	NYJ	11	ILB	David Harris
30.	DET	9	OLB	DeAndre Levy
31.	TEN	9	MLB	Wesley Woodyard
32.	DEN	4	SLB	Von Miller
33.	MIA	5	MLB	Koa Misi
34.	OAK	5	WLB	Khalil Mack
35.	OAK	5	MLB	Nick Roach
36.	MIA	5	WLB	Dannell Ellerbe
37.	BUF	9	MLB	Brandon Spikes
38.	HOU	10	ILB	Brian Cushing
39.	CHI	9	MLB	Jon Bostic
40.	ATL	9	ILB	Paul Worrlow
41.	TEN	9	ILB	Zach Brown
42.	BAL	11	OLB	Terrelluggs
43.	MIN	10	MLB	Audie Cole
44.	KC	6	OLB	Tamba Hali
45.	BAL	11	ILB	C.J. Mosley
46.	ARI	4	ILB	Kevin Minter
47.	DEN	4	MLB	Nate Irving
48.	WAS	10	OLB	Brian Orakpo
49.	CHI	9	WLB	Lance Briggs
50.	NYJ	11	ILB	DeMario Davis
51.	GB	9	OLB	Clay Matthews
52.	DAL	11	OLB	Bruce Carter
53.	NE	10	OLB	Dont'a Hightower
54.	OAK	5	SLB	Sio Moore
55.	OAK	5	OLB	Kevin Burnett
56.	KC	6	OLB	Justin Houston
57.	MIA	5	SLB	Philip Wheeler
58.	NYG	8	MLB	Jon Beason
59.	SD	10	ILB	Manti Te'o
60.	NO	6	ILB	David Hawthorne
61.	GB	9	ILB	Brad Jones
62.	KC	6	ILB	Joe Mays
63.	IND	10	OLB	Robert Mathis
64.	WAS	10	OLB	Ryan Kerrigan
65.	PHI	7	OLB	Trent Cole

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Rk	Tm	Bye	Pos	Player
1.	SD	10	FS	Eric Weddle
2.	DAL	11	FS	Barry Church
3.	JAC	11	SS	John Cyprien
4.	NYG	8	SS	Antrel Rolle
5.	SF	8	SS	Antoine Bethea
6.	NO	6	FS	Jairus Byrd
7.	MIN	10	FS	Harrison Smith
8.	GB	9	SS	Morgan Burnett
9.	SEA	4	FS	Earl Thomas
10.	KC	6	SS	Eric Berry
11.	DEN	4	SS	T.J. Ward
12.	DET	9	SS	James Ihedigbo
13.	MIA	5	SS	Reshad Jones
14.	MIA	5	FS	Louis Delmas
15.	ARI	4	FS	Tyrann Mathieu
16.	BUF	9	SS	Aaron Williams
17.	TEN	9	SS	Bernard Pollard
18.	SEA	4	CB	Richard Sherman
19.	OAK	5	SS	Tyvon Branch
20.	NYG	8	CB	Prince Amukamara
21.	CHI	9	CB	Charles Tillman
22.	ATL	9	SS	William Moore
23.	CLE	4	FS	Tashaun Gipson
24.	TB	7	SS	Mark Barron
25.	GB	9	CB	Tramon Williams
26.	DET	9	FS	Glover Quin
27.	ARI	4	CB	Patrick Peterson
28.	WAS	10	SS	B. Meriweather
29.	DEN	4	FS	Rahim Moore
30.	SEA	4	SS	Kam Chancellor
31.	STL	4	CB	Janoris Jenkins
32.	BAL	11	SS	Matt Elam
33.	CHI	9	FS	Chris Conte
34.	OAK	5	FS	Charles Woodson
35.	NYG	8	CB	D. Rodgers-Cromartie
36.	NE	10	SS	Duron Harmon
37.	WAS	10	FS	Ryan Clark
38.	ATL	9	FS	D. Southward
39.	ARI	4	SS	Deone Bucannon
40.	IND	10	SS	LaRon Landry
41.	NYJ	11	SS	Dawan Landry
42.	TB	7	SS	Major Wright
43.	NYJ	11	FS	Calvin Pryor
44.	BUF	9	FS	Corey Graham
45.	SF	8	FS	Eric Reid
46.	DEN	4	CB	Aqib Talib
47.	NO	6	SS	Kenny Vaccaro
48.	PIT	12	SS	Troy Polamalu
49.	STL	4	FS	Rodney McLeod
50.	HOU	10	SS	D.J. Swearinger
51.	WAS	10	CB	DeAngelo Hall
52.	HOU	10	FS	Chris Clemons
53.	DAL	11	SS	J.J. Wilcox
54.	MIN	10	SS	Jamarca Sanford
55.	GB	9	FS	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix
56.	SD	10	SS	Marcus Gilchrist
57.	CIN	4	SS	Reggie Nelson
58.	MIN	10	CB	Captain Munnerlyn
59.	PIT	12	FS	Mike Mitchell
60.	MIA	5	CB	Brent Grimes
61.	TEN	9	FS	Michael Griffin
62.	NE	10	CB	Darrelle Revis
63.	DAL	11	CB	Brandon Carr
64.	PHI	7	SS	Nate Allen
65.	CAR	12	SS	Roman Harper

Rankings based on a fantasy scoring system of 6 points for TDs (interception, fumble, kick return), 4 for interceptions, 4 for sacks, 4 for fumbles forced or recovered, 1.5 for solo tackles, .75 for assists. Defensive linemen receive slightly more points for sacks (5), solos (2), and assists (1).

Arizona Cardinals

If the Cardinals weren't in the rugged NFC West, they would have made the playoffs last year. Despite playing one of the toughest schedules, they went 10-6. They were the only team to win at Seattle, and they blew out two other division champions (Indianapolis and Carolina).

It made for quite a debut season for Bruce Arians, and now Arizona looks even better. The offensive line, a weakness for years, will be a lot stronger, with Jared Veldheer coming in to handle at left tackle and Jonathan Cooper finally healthy. Cooper was the 7th pick of last year's draft but missed his rookie season with a broken leg.

San Francisco and Seattle are still standing in the way; the Cardinals will have one of the hardest schedules again. But this is one of the sleeper teams. In the second half of last year, only six teams scored more points than Arizona, and only six gained more yards.

QUARTERBACK. In typical fantasy leagues, production is worth about twice as much when it comes on runs rather than passes. Running for 30 yards is equivalent to passing for 60, and it's similar with touchdowns.

This essentially stacks the deck against Carson Palmer. He'll put up above-average passing stats, but he's a nothing as a runner – an honorary Manning brother. And that makes it unlikely he'll be much of a factor in fantasy leagues.

That's how it played out last year. Palmer averaged 267 passing yards per game, 9th-best among quarterbacks. And he ranked 15th in TD passes, with 24 in 16 games. But factor in that Palmer doesn't have the wheels to sneak out of the pocket for some yards and touchdowns, and 22 other quarterbacks put up better numbers (on a per-game basis).

Things should be pretty similar this year. Palmer is 34, but he can still zip it. He was a lot better at the end of last year. Compare the final eight games to the first half of the year and there's 4 more touchdowns, 6 fewer interceptions, 56 more passing yards per game and a passer rating that's 23 points higher.

But ultimately, Palmer is playing a game that's rigged against him. Even if he moves up to 27 TD passes and about 270 yards per game, he probably still won't be a top-10 fantasy quarterback. It might not be fair, but that's the way most of us have chosen to set up our leagues.

Backup Drew Stanton has the mobility Palmer lacks; he ran for 80 yards and a touchdown when he started three games in 2010. But he doesn't seem to be good enough as a passer. Stanton has completed only 56 percent in the preseason the last two years, with 2 TDs and 2 interceptions. He's played in three regular seasons and never completed better than 58 percent.

RUNNING BACK. The Cardinals have gone a record 11 straight years without ranking in the top 20 in rushing, but it could be time for that streak to end. The offensive line will be better, and they will call a healthy number of running plays. Set aside quarterbacks and Arizona ranked 17th in rushing last year.

They will use a committee approach. Andre Ellington had a great rookie season; he averaged more yards per carry and more yards per reception than Gio Bernard. With 8 runs of 20-plus yards in only 118 carries, he had the best ratio of big-play runs in the league.

But Ellington looks similar to Darren Sproles, Danny Woodhead and C.J. Spiller (his teammate in college). Ask him to do too much, and he could break down or lose his explosiveness. Ellington always had problems staying healthy at Clemson, and he was slowed by a knee injury late last year.

There's also the troubling likelihood that now that defenses have seen Ellington, they'll adjust to his speed and do a much better job defending him. He averaged 7.7 yards per carry in his first eight games last year, then only 4.3 the rest of the way. It's not easy making NFL defenses look like fools.



Andre Ellington averaged 5.5 yards per carry as a rookie, but he wore down at the end of the year.

To us, Ellington looks like a back who'll get 12-15 carries per game, running for about 800 yards. Maybe he adds another 450 yards as a receiver; he caught 39 passes as a rookie. Ellington won't carry at the goal line, making his ceiling about a half-dozen touchdowns.

The Cardinals need another back to handle about half of the rushing duties, as well as the goal-line work. Rashard Mendenhall held this role last year, running for 687 yards and 8 TDs, but he averaged only 3.2 yards per carry. He says he's retired, and probably no team would sign him for more than the minimum anyway.

Another former Steeler, Jonathan Dwyer, is one possibility. He's worked with Bruce Arians and has been an effective inside runner at times. He's averaged 4.0 yards per carry the last two years. He's too slow for a big role and probably can't play on passing downs, but he could be their goal-line guy. That could put him in line for about 7 TDs and maybe 600 rushing yards.

Stepfan Taylor looks like the other candidate. He struggled as a rookie, averaging only 3.2 per carry, but he's had a year now to better learn the system. Other backs have made that jump; Lamar Miller, Joique Bell and Fred Jackson come to mind. Taylor ran for 1,530 yards his final year at Stanford, and the Cardinals selected him a round earlier than Ellington.

RECEIVER. In Larry Fitzgerald and Michael Floyd, Arizona has one of the best receiver tandems in the league – two big targets who cause matchup problems for smaller corners. And the way the Cardinals run their offense, they both should start every week in most fantasy leagues.

Fitzgerald will wind up in the Hall of Fame. He's a great talent,

and not since Jerry Rice has a receiver worked harder at his craft. Ten years into his career, Fitzgerald is averaging 85 catches, 1,137 yards and 8.7 touchdowns.

With his experience and remarkable hands, Fitzgerald will be better around the goal line – where precise route-running becomes crucial. Inside the 10 last year, Carson Palmer went only 2 of 8 throwing to Floyd, but he went 7 of 13 going to Fitzgerald. That's why Fitzgerald outscored Floyd 10-5, accounting for 42 percent of his team's touchdown catches (the highest of any wide receiver in the league). Fitzgerald is still a franchise receiver.

Floyd isn't up there with Fitzgerald yet, but he's closing the gap. He's got a lot more speed and downfield ability. Fitzgerald has become a possession-type receiver, averaging under 12 yards per catch two years in a row. Floyd averaged 16 yards per catch last season, 6th-best among receivers with at least 50 catches.

With more of those downfield strikes, Floyd might finish with more yards. Fitzgerald caught 17 more passes last year, but Floyd finished with 87 more yards. When the Cardinals figure out how to get the ball to Floyd more effectively around the goal line, he could develop into this team's most productive pass catcher – he'll see fewer double teams.

The Cardinals have a host of other receivers, but none that look capable of fantasy relevant numbers. Ted Ginn is a serviceable deep threat, but he can't work the middle of the field – he doesn't have the hands or route-running ability. Ginn might return kickoffs and punts, but he hasn't scored on a return in almost three years. Their third-round pick, John Brown from Pittsburg State, is the same player – less experienced but more explosive.

Their other Brown, Jaron Brown, offers a bigger, more rugged target. As an undrafted free agent, he forced his way onto the roster by catching 11 passes and 2 TDs in the preseason. But he hardly played in the real games and isn't a great fit with Fitzgerald and Floyd; he's not fast enough.

Rob Housler caught 39 passes last year, but he's not really a Bruce Arians guy. In this system, the preference is for tight ends that help in the running game and with pass protection, while Housler was drafted for his speed. "Tight ends for me block first, catch second," Arians says.

Hence the decision to sign John Carlson and draft Troy Niklas. They're not as good running routes, but they should make the rest of

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Carson Palmer	572	362	63.3	4274	24	22	41	83.9
Opponents	625	367	58.7	4065	29	20	47	80.2
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
R. Mendenhall	217	687	3.2	8	182	0	928	9
Andre Ellington	118	652	5.5	3	--	--	--	--
Cardinals	422	1540	3.6	12	1204	10	1625	12
Opponents	370	1351	3.7	5	2192	12	1986	15
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Michael Floyd	65	1041	16.0	91	5	45	562	2
Larry Fitzgerald	82	954	11.6	75	10	71	798	4
Andre Roberts	43	471	11.0	34	2	64	759	5
Rob Housler	39	454	11.6	31	1	45	417	0
Andre Ellington	39	371	9.5	38	1	--	--	--
Jim Dray	26	215	8.3	18	2	2	15	0
Cardinals	363	4291	11.8	91	24	337	3383	11
Opponents	367	4065	11.1	72	29	270	3441	20
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Jay Feely	37-37	30-36	11-12	3-5	127	100	90	107
Cardinals	37-37	30-36	11-12	3-5	127	100	90	101
Opponents	33-33	25-32	7-10	4-6	108	113	138	164

the offense run more smoothly. Niklas weighs 270, and with him being selected in the second round, the expectation is he'll be starting quickly. Carlson might also play more than Housler, but it doesn't really matter – no tight end on this roster will catch 30 passes or 3 TDs.

KICKER. Jay Feely is the only kicker in league history to score 120 points in a season for four different teams. He's 38, but the Cardinals apparently think he's got some seasons left; rather than court some of the other free agents in the offseason, they opted to resign Feely (albeit for just one year and \$1.02 million).

Feely looks average at best in terms of accuracy and range. He got on a roll last year when Arizona's offense came around. Only two teams scored more kicking points in the final 10 weeks of the season. Feely scored only 37 points in the first six games (more than only five teams) finishing at 127 overall.

	at St.L. 24-27	Det. 25-21	at N.O. 7-31	at T.B. 13-10	Car. 22-6	at S.F. 20-32	Sea. 22-34	Atl. 27-13	Hou. 27-24	at Jac. 27-14	Ind. 40-11	at Phil. 21-24	St.L. 30-10	at Tenn. 37-34(ot)	at Sea. 17-10	S.F. 20-23
QB Palmer (run stats)	26-40-1-327 0-0 4,24	22-39-1-248 2-(-2) 36	18-35-2-187 0-0 13	21-38-2-248 4-6 7	19-28-3-175 3-(-3) 7	25-41-2-298 0-0 75,10	30-45-2-258 2-5 8	13-18-1-172 1-9 10,15	20-32-1-241 2-(-2) 12,19	30-42-0-419 3-(-3) 14,91	26-37-0-314 0-0 4,26	24-41-2-302 1-(-1) 43,23,3	27-32-0-269 1-(-1) 7	20-30-0-231 2-(-1) 6	13-25-4-178 5-(-3) 31	28-49-1-407 1-(-1) 1,34
RB Mendenhall (rec stats)	16-60 1-4	15-66 2-28 1	9-29 1-12	12-21 3-13	17-43 2-7 1	10-40 1-2	13-22 0-0 3	DNP toe	13-42 1-9	12-14 3-13 5	13-54 1-24 5	18-76 0-0	17-41 0-0 3	21-69 1-9 1,1	21-63 0-0 2-pt run	10-47 2-13
RB Ellington (rec stats)	0-0 1-13	4-20 2-42 36 rec	3-19 3-36	4-29 3-22	7-52 4-31	7-56 5-36 15	3-3 2-10	15-154 2-8 80	11-55 2-18	9-3 2-10	10-50 2-21	DNP knee	14-46 2-17 6	10-71 4-87	15-64 2-8	9-30 3-12
WR Fitzgerald	8-80 4,24	2-33	5-64	6-68 13	3-43	6-117 75	2-17	4-48 10	3-23	6-61 14	5-52 4,26	5-72 43	12-96 7	6-49	3-18	6-113
WR Floyd	4-82	3-22	4-49	5-87	5-61	5-44 10	5-58	3-30 15	2-31	6-193 91	7-104	5-99 23	2-26	2-33	1-31 31	6-91
WR Roberts	8-97	3-36	1-6	1-6	0-0	1-5	5-33	1-8	5-72 19	3-14	3-43	4-29	1-8	2-15	2-25	3-74 34
TE Housler	DNP ankle	DNP ankle	1-13	1-23	0-0	4-32	7-53	1-14	4-57 12	6-70	4-51	3-21	3-42	DNP groin	0-0	5-78
K Feely	30 miss: 50	47,23,43,33	-	42,27	42,50	-	49,52,22	39,38	35,21	21,32	48,50,21,25 miss: 28	-	-	25,47,41	39,46,26	49,43 miss: 37,43
Others	2 INT return		A.Smith 3 run		safety Dray 7 rec		J.Brown 8 rec		6 fumble return		22 INT return	Dray 3 rec	safety	Ballard 6 rec		Ballard 1 rec

Atlanta Falcons

Atlanta's offense was done in by injuries last year. Roddy White was hurt all year, Julio Jones missed 11 games, and the two starting tackles played in only four games combined. Considering the injuries, it was no surprise the Falcons dropped from 7th to 20th in scoring.

Everybody's healthy now, so Atlanta should make a quick move back into the top 10. Depth is an issue and Tony Gonzalez retired, but the Falcons still have a nice nucleus of talent. With a better offensive line, the play-calling should be more balanced; they ran the ball on only 31 percent of their plays last year, lowest in NFL history.

It looks unlikely that Atlanta will move back to the top of the NFC South; it has a lot of problems on defense, and this is a tough division. But we expect solid improvement from the offense. In each of the three seasons prior to last year, the Falcons scored 42-44 touchdowns; for this year, we're going with 40-41 on our board.

QUARTERBACK. Matt Ryan comes off a down season, but considering the way everything fell apart around him, it was a surprise he wasn't worse. He still managed to pass for 282 yards per game, with 26 touchdowns.

Ryan is one of the top half-dozen passers in the league. The previous season he averaged 295 yards, with 32 touchdowns. Those kind of numbers simply weren't possible both of his offensive tackles and both of his receivers were hurt for most of the year.

With those kind of injury issues, Ryan deserves credit for still completing 67 percent of his passes (4th-best in the league). Atlanta somehow still ranked 5th in converting third downs, trailing only four playoff teams.

But the playmaking and explosiveness simply weren't there. Too often Ryan was hurried into settling for checkdown throws. He averaged only 10.3 yards per completion, lowest in the league, and endured 44 sacks. Ryan wasn't sacked more than 28 times in any of his previous five seasons; he's one of those Brees-type quarterbacks who gets rid of the ball quickly.

The Falcons have had a chance to heal and regroup, so Ryan's numbers will improve. He'll work without Tony Gonzalez for the first time, which will hurt him some. He also won't pass quite as often (since the running game will be better). But Ryan definitely will connect on more big plays downfield, and he should throw more touchdowns.

Our expectation is for about 280 yards per game and close to 30 touchdowns. Ryan isn't a runner, which may cause him to drop a couple of spots in many scoring formats. Ryan has averaged only 6 rushing yards in 94 career starts, with 5 TDs (none last year).

Backup Dominique Davis has no value. On the off chance he actually plays, he'll make a few plays with his feet (he ran for 28 touchdowns at East Carolina). But Davis looks iffy as a passer; he completed only 53 percent in the preseason last year, with 2 TDs and 3 interceptions.

RUNNING BACK. For the third year in a row, the Falcons are banking on a running back on the wrong side of 30. Michael Turner flopped in 2012. Steven Jackson struggled last year, but they're giving him another chance.

The offensive line, the theory goes, held back Jackson last year. Other than maybe Adrian Peterson, no back could have run for 1,000 yards on that team last year. Jackson also missed four games with a hamstring injury.

But at 31, Jackson simply doesn't have the power and speed he had eight years ago, when he was going over 2,000 combined yards for the Rams. Four years in a row, he's run for fewer yards per game, and he averaged a career-worst 3.5 per attempt last season.

We also don't think Jackson will start more than 13 games. He's a 240-pound bruiser whose body is breaking down. He's played a full 16 games only twice in the last seven years. In three of those seasons, he's missed four games.

Jackson has some value as a receiver; he might catch 40 passes. He'll also score most of their rushing touchdowns. The passing game



Julio Jones has as much upside as any receiver in the league. He averaged over 8 catches per game last year.

will be improved, and that softens up defenses some. But more likely, Jackson will struggle and become more of a part-time player.

Jacquizz Rodgers might average double-digit touches. That would give Jackson a better chance of staying healthy, and Rodgers might be better anyway. He's more elusive, and he's more effective in the passing game. Rodgers caught 84 percent of the passes thrown his way last year, compared to only 67 percent for Jackson.

But at 5-foot-6 and 196 pounds, Rodgers is too small to ever be more than a part-time back. In four games as a fill-in starter last year, he averaged 44 rushing and 31 receiving yards, with 2 TD runs and 2 TD catches. Jason Snelling (now retired) got almost as many touches in those games.

The Falcons selected Devonta Freeman in the fourth round, and he looks like a good fit for this offense. He's unusually developed as a pass protector and receiver, and he's a compact 206-pounder who runs hard. He was part of a three-back rotation the last three years for Florida State.

At worst, Freeman will be needed to fill in for Jackson or Rodgers for a few games. He might simply be better than those guys. He's 10 pounds heavier than Rodgers, and he's quicker than Jackson. A player to monitor in August.

Antone Smith carried the ball only 5 times last year and went over 35 yards on 3 of them. But we don't see how they'll fit him in. He weighs only 192 pounds and is a total liability in the passing game. Smith wasn't even drafted back in 2009, and he hasn't been productive the last two preseasons.

RECEIVER. Tony Gonzalez retired, so the Falcons will need other players to catch lot more passes and touchdowns. Gonzalez averaged 88 catches and 8 TDs in his last two seasons with the team.

Levine Toilolo should start at tight end, but he's no Gonzalez. He doesn't have the same hands or route-running ability, and he ran only 4.86 at the combine a year ago. Toilolo's only value, it seems, is possibly in TD-only leagues. They might try to tap into his 6-foot-8 height in the red zone. Toilolo caught 2 TDs last year, and he caught 10 TDs in his final 27 games at Stanford.

Julio Jones is the clear No. 1. If not for a broken foot, he might have led the league in receiving last year. He played in only five games but still managed to catch 41 passes for 580 yards and 2 TDs. Jones' foot shouldn't be a problem, but they didn't have him running routes at their May passing camps.

Once it's clear Jones will be OK physically, he's one of the few receivers with a realistic opportunity to catch 110 passes and double-digit touchdowns. He'll score on a few long-range bombs, and he'll also probably be their main option around the goal line – especially with Gonzalez gone. When he got hurt last year, Jones was on pace to be the busiest receiver in the league inside the 10, with 7 targets in five games.

Roddy White doesn't have the same ability as Jones – he doesn't have the same jaw-dropping size and speed – but he might represent a better value. He's a productive, savvy pro, and he has a good rapport with Ryan. In the four seasons prior to last year, White averaged 98 catches for 1,297 yards and 9 TDs.

White's numbers were down last year, but he was trying to play on a sprained ankle for most of the season. Once he finally got healthy, his numbers were outstanding – 43 catches in the final five games. With defenses more concerned with Jones and with Gonzalez no longer around, White could be in the mix for another season with 90-plus catches and 8 TDs.

Harry Douglas is the slot receiver, and the Falcons probably will use three-receiver sets far more often than they did in the past. They'll need Douglas to pick up a lot of those short and intermediate routes that Gonzalez used to run. He led the team with 85 catches for 1,067 yards last year.

But we don't envision Douglas reaching 60 catches. He benefited last year from the injuries to Jones and White; that elevated him into a featured role for a good chunk of last season. And Douglas doesn't have a lot of playmaking ability; he scored only 2 TDs all of last year.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Matt Ryan	651	439	67.4	4515	26	17	44	89.6
Falcons	659	445	67.5	4541	26	17	44	89.5
Opponents	516	341	66.1	4128	31	10	32	102.4
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Steven Jackson	157	543	3.5	6	1042	4	1145	5
Jacquizz Rodgers	96	332	3.5	2	362	1	205	1
Falcons	321	1247	3.9	11	1397	12	1834	14
Opponents	455	2173	4.8	14	1971	16	1552	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Harry Douglas	85	1067	12.6	80	2	38	396	1
Tony Gonzalez	83	859	10.3	25	8	93	930	8
Roddy White	63	711	11.3	39	3	92	1351	7
Julio Jones	41	580	14.1	81	2	79	1198	10
Jacquizz Rodgers	52	341	6.6	22	2	53	402	1
Steven Jackson	33	191	5.8	25	1	38	321	0
Falcons	445	4541	10.2	81	26	422	4719	32
Opponents	341	4128	12.1	67	31	337	4060	14
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Matt Bryant	39-39	24-27	5-5	3-5	111	143	126	128
Opponents	47-47	34-35	12-12	3-4	149	111	106	76

KICKER. Injuries and other personnel shortcomings caused Atlanta to drop into the bottom 10 in kicking points last year, but those are correctable problems. The Falcons could move back to the head of the NFC South, with the extra points and field goals flowing. The team scored 397 kicking points in the three seasons prior to last year, tying for 2nd-most in the league.

Matt Bryant should be their kicker; he's lost some leg strength but is still very reliable on shorter kicks. Only four kickers have been more accurate over the last three years. Matt Bosher will handle kickoffs, so that's not an issue. But at 39 and with a salary of \$2.75 million, Bryant's roster spot won't be safe until the cuts are final. Atlanta kept two kickers through August last year.

	at N.O. 17-23	St.L. 31-24	at Mia. 23-27	N.E. 23-30	NYJ 28-30	T.B. 31-23	at Ariz. 13-27	at Car. 10-34	Sea. 10-33	at T.B. 28-41	N.O. 13-17	Buff. (Tor.) 34-31(ot)	at G.B. 21-22	Wash. 27-26	at S.F. 24-34	Car. 20-21
QB Ryan (run stats)	25-38-1-308 1-12 4,7	33-43-0-374 0-0 8,81	23-38-1-231 0-0 7,2	34-54-1-421 0-0 21,11	36-45-0-319 0-0 4,3	20-26-0-273 3-(-12) 8,19,37	34-61-4-301 1-13 4	20-27-3-219 2-2 17	23-36-0-172 3-15 12	19-36-2-254 0-0 80,6	30-39-0-292 2-10 11	28-47-0-311 0-0 11	20-35-1-206 1-(-1) 36,2	29-38-1-210 0-0 13	37-48-2-348 0-0 39,2	28-40-1-280 2-(-1) 9,39
RB Jackson (rec stats)	11-77 5-45	3-0 1-8 8 rec	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	11-6 3-7	13-57 3-19	9-11 3-9	11-41 2-24	16-63 3-16 1	23-84 1-0 27,1	16-72 1-9	15-38 4-5 3,2	16-53 2-(-4) 2	13-41 5-53
RB Rodgers (rec stats)	2-(-1) 1-3	11-17 4-28	18-86 2-7	7-32 6-56	14-43 4-15 4,19	8-16 8-46 8,19 recs	2-8 2-11	5-19 6-25	3-31 5-28	6-22 1-8	3-7 2-31	4-12 1-11	6-13 3-33	4-17 4-24	3-10 3-15	DNP concussion
RB Snelling (rec stats)	0-0 2-17	2-19 4-41 11	11-53 4-58 7 rec	8-26 1-8	7-13 5-10 4 rec	7-14 0-0	DNP ankle	0-0 0-0	1-7 3-25	DNP knee	0-0 2-19	0-0 1-3	1-(-2) 1-2	1-0 1-3	1-(-2) 3-15	5-36 2-15 9 rec
WR J.Jones	7-76 4	11-182 81	9-115	6-108	8-99	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
WR White	2-19	3-21	2-16	3-28	4-45	DNP hamstring/ankle	DNP hamstring/ankle	DNP hamstring/ankle	1-20	3-36 6	2-24	10-143	8-74	5-53	12-141 39	8-91 39
WR Douglas	4-93	4-43	1-9	5-68	2-6	7-149 37	12-121	3-82	7-49	6-134 80	7-79	6-73	2-20	5-37	5-46	7-58
TE Gonzalez	3-36 7	4-33	4-24	12-149 21,11	10-97	2-30	3-26	6-81 17	3-29	7-63 2-pt rec	4-43	4-42 11	3-25 2	6-62 13	8-63 2	4-56
K Bryant	23	38	52,20,33 miss: 35	23,45,25	-	23	24,30	28	53	46,49	39,24 miss: 52	49,36	-	20,51	35	42,37
Others	68 INT return Toilolo 2 rec			Toilolo 3 rec			30 turn ret	D.Davis 4 rec			D.Johnson 12 rec A.Smith 50 run D.Davis 2-pt pass			A.Smith 38 run D.Davis 36 rec 71 INT return		

Baltimore Ravens

Baltimore is bringing in Gary Kubiak to oversee its offense, and that's an interesting marriage. He was largely successful in Houston, where over the last five years his offenses gained more yards and scored more touchdowns than the Ravens, but it's a system that doesn't seem like a great fit with this personnel.

Kubiak has long tended to put his quarterback on the move with bootlegs and rollouts, but that might not mesh with Joe Flacco (who's more of a pocket passer). And Kubiak always featured Andre Johnson in Houston, but the Ravens don't have a receiver like that. Ray Rice has been a great runner, but he's more of a darter – can he transition into being more of a one-cut, downhill runner?

The bigger issue is the offensive line. It was a disaster last year. Hard to envision that group getting back to the level it was at the previous year, when the offense scored 13 more touchdowns. They're counting on Ricky Wagner, a fifth-round pick a year ago, to step in at right tackle, and that's a big gamble.

QUARTERBACK. Joe Flacco can be an above-average passer. He proved that when he carried the Ravens to a Super Bowl. In his final 12 games that season, he threw 24 TDs versus only 4 interceptions.

But Flacco has to be in the right offense, and that's where we get a little squeamish. He's at his best when the Ravens have a pounding running game and he's launching deep strikes; he's one of the top half-dozen long-ball throwers in the league.

In this new system, however, they could be asking him to do more of the things that aren't his strengths – putting him on the move and asking him to connect on more short throws. In Gary Kubiak's last six years in Houston, his quarterbacks completed 64 percent of their passes; that's the design of that offense. Flacco has completed only 59 percent the last three years, far more often going for the knockout punch.

Not that Flacco is necessarily a square peg being jammed into a round hole. He completed 63 percent back in his second and third seasons. And while not particularly mobile, he's in the same ballpark there as Matt Schaub, who had some good years in Houston. This thing might work.

But there are growing pains any time a new offense is installed. The players need to get comfortable, and Kubiak must figure out how best to use them. Ultimately, both Houston and Baltimore have finished with only 19-22 TD passes three years in a row, making it hard to be optimistic that Flacco will suddenly move up to 26.

Flacco should pass for a few more yards. There should be a few more passes, and there will be more easy completions. He's been in Baltimore for six years, and in each of those seasons, Kubiak's offenses in Houston averaged more passing yards. About 250-260 passing yards and 22-23 TDs. That's what we're expecting.

Backup Tyrod Taylor is a big downgrade as a passer, but he's one of the more mobile quarterbacks. When the Ravens used Taylor for most of their Week 17 game two years ago, he threw for only 149 yards but ran for 65 yards and a touchdown on 9 carries.

RUNNING BACK. Ray Rice will be on the discount rack at fantasy drafts. He comes off a career-worst season, and he's also saddled with off-field baggage. Charges that he assaulted his fiancée at a casino have been dropped, but that incident should result in a league suspension of at least a couple of games.

But Rice still holds considerable value. The on-field problems look correctable. Rice bulked up too much last year. Apparently, he played at 220 pounds, and he simply wasn't the same back. He'll be back under 210 this season. "I think he learned that adding 10 pounds to his frame made him less elusive, not more powerful," owner Steve Bisciotti said.

The offensive line, however, was the group that really killed the running game. It wasn't in the same ballpark as the unit that got hot during



ZUMA PRESS/ICON SM

Torrey Smith is an elite deep threat, but he probably won't be utilized enough inside the red zone.

the Super Bowl run. Matt Birk retired, and Bryant McKinnie played so poorly they gave him away to Miami. Note that while Rice averaged only 3.1 yards per carry, backup Bernard Pierce was even worse.

The line probably will be below-average again this year, but the switch to zone-blocking schemes should help. Four years in a row, Gary Kubiak's offenses have run for over 200 more yards than Baltimore's, and they did it without a great line (the Texans have drafted only one offensive lineman in the first two rounds in the last 10 years).

Even if Baltimore runs for 20-25 more yards per game, however, we don't think Rice will be an elite back. Rice has gone over 2,000 combined yards twice, but he's not carrying that kind of workload anymore. They've got Pierce now. With those guys being used as a one-two punch, Rice's 16-game ceiling probably would be about 1,500 yards and 8 TDs.

Pierce might run for 40 yards per game off the bench. He managed 25 last year, even though the running game was sputtering. His real value is as a handcuff. If an injury (or suspension) elevates him into the starting lineup, his rushing numbers will be better than Rice's – he wouldn't be spelled as often. He isn't nearly as good, however, as a pass catcher.

Baltimore selected 230-pound Lorenzo Taliaferro in the fourth round. He probably won't play much, but he gives them another back to mix in if either Rice or Pierce misses some time.

RECEIVER. The Ravens won't put up elite passing numbers, and they've got lots of receivers who'll be involved – meaning there probably won't be any big-time pass catchers on this roster.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Joe Flacco	614	362	59.0	3912	19	22	48	73.1
Opponents	552	314	56.9	3938	25	16	40	82.2
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Ray Rice	214	660	3.1	4	1143	9	1364	12
Bernard Pierce	152	436	2.9	2	532	1	--	--
Joe Flacco	27	131	4.9	1	22	3	88	1
Ravens	423	1328	3.1	7	1901	17	1996	15
Opponents	440	1687	3.8	7	1965	15	1482	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Torrey Smith	65	1128	17.4	74	4	49	855	8
Marlon Brown	49	524	10.7	59	7	--	--	--
Jacoby Jones	37	455	12.3	66	2	30	406	1
Dallas Clark	31	343	11.1	45	3	47	435	4
Ray Rice	58	321	5.5	22	0	61	478	1
Ed Dickson	25	273	10.9	43	1	21	225	0
Ravens	363	3914	10.8	74	19	334	3996	22
Opponents	314	3938	12.5	79	25	335	3900	15
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Justin Tucker	26-26	38-41	10-11	6-7	140	132	--	--
Opponents	34-34	32-35	9-11	2-3	130	142	110	106

Dennis Pitta looks the most promising. He's one of the league's best pass-catching tight ends, and that position should be featured prominently in this offense — especially in the red zone (where Gary Kubiak loves getting players open with play action). In his last three years in Houston, 46 percent of the team's touchdown passes went to tight ends.

Pitta's not their only tight end, though. They've signed Owen Daniels, who has similar skills and knows this offense. They also drafted Crockett Gillmore, who's a better blocker. In each of Kubiak's last three years in Houston, at least two tight ends caught 3-plus touchdowns. Tight end depth might make Pitta's ceiling about 600 yards and 6 TDs.

Marlon Brown is another player who could muck things up. With limited speed, he wasn't even drafted, but he's 6-foot-5, and that size made him the team's best red-zone option last year. Inside the 10, Flacco went 8 of 11 when passing for Brown, helping the youngster score 7 TDs. If he can retain that role, it will increase the likelihood that nobody on this team will catch more than 5 TDs.

Torrey Smith is one of the best at getting behind defenses for long gains. He's averaged 17.4 yards per catch over the last two years. But he might not fit as well in this offense, which features far fewer of those kind of throws.

When it comes to running slant routes and working the middle of the field, Smith at best is unproven. With the team now having a deeper, better receiving corps, we don't see him suddenly becoming their clear No. 1 receiver. About 65 catches is probably his ceiling, and he won't be a big factor in the red zone.

The other Smith, Steve, might be almost as good. He's 35 and tailed off some last year, but that might have been due more to Carolina going conservative on offense. He went one-on-one in a Monday night matchup against Aqib Talib and ripped him up, and he was having a big game against San Francisco in the playoffs until he aggravated a knee injury.

The older Smith is better at working the middle of the field and has more toughness and after-the-catch ability. And while he's lost some speed, he averaged 16.1 yards per catch as recently as two years ago. With so many other guys involved, however, it's tough to see him getting past about 700 yards and 4-5 TDs.

Barring injuries, Jacoby Jones should play sparingly. He'll return kicks (and he's scored on 5 of those in the last two years) and they'll try to

hit him on some deep balls. he caught a 66-yard bomb against the Jets last year. The previous postseason, he caught the pivotal 70-yard touchdown at Denver, as well as a 56-yard touchdown in the Super Bowl. Not a player, however, who can be counted on on a week-to-week basis.

KICKER. Justin Tucker is fast becoming one of the top handful of kickers. He's hit 92 percent of his field goals his first two years, including a league-best 10 of 11 from 50-plus. Only two kickers have scored more points since Tucker joined the league.

For any kicker to score 140-plus points, however, he needs help from his offense. Stalled drives last year resulted in Baltimore's offense scoring 38 field goals versus only 26 touchdowns, the most lopsided ratio in the league. With tweaks in execution and play calling, the Ravens should score more touchdowns this year, which could easily result in Tucker losing a dozen points or more.

	at Den. 27-49	Clev. 14-6	Hou. 30-9	at Buff. 20-23	at Mia. 26-23	G.B. 17-19	at Pitt. 16-19	at Clev. 18-24	Cin. 20-17	at Chi. 20-23	NYJ 19-3	Pitt. 22-20	Minn. 29-26	at Det. 18-16	N.E. 7-41	at Cin. 17-34
QB Flacco (run stats)	34-62-2-362 0-0 2,13	22-33-0-211 4-6 5	16-24-0-171 0-0	25-50-5-347 0-0 10,26	19-32-1-269 2-13	20-34-0-342 1-6 11,18	24-34-0-215 2-14 1	24-41-1-250 3-25 2-pt, 7, 19	20-36-2-140 1-4 1,7	17-31-2-162 4-20 5	17-26-1-273 0-0 66	24-35-0-251 4-7 7	28-50-3-245 1-22 2-pt, 1, 9, 1	20-38-0-222 2-13	22-38-2-260 2-0 1 run	30-50-3-192 1-1 8
RB Rice (rec stats)	12-36 8-35 1	13-36 3-9	DNP hip	5-17 0-0	27-74 6-28 2,3	14-34 3-15	15-45 4-27	11-17 3-21	18-30 6-26	25-131 3-17 1	16-30 1-(-3)	12-32 6-38	17-67 5-42	12-56 1-8	11-40 2-23	6-15 7-35 2-pt run
RB Pierce (rec stats)	9-22 0-0	19-57 1-(-2) 5	24-65 2-7 1	4-7 1-2	11-46 0-0	6-9 2-22	6-13 1-9	6-11 0-0	8-31 2-12	10-18 0-0	11-30 0-0	9-35 3-4	7-12 1-5	7-21 0-0	10-31 3-27	5-28 4-18
WR T.Smith	4-92	7-85	5-92	5-166 26	6-121	1-12	3-61	5-78	5-46 7	5-32 5	2-74	6-93 7	1-11 2-pt rec	4-69	3-69	3-27
WR M.Brown	4-65 13	4-45 5	2-6	4-34 10	DNP thigh	3-71	4-22	5-54 2-pt, 7, 19	1-10	DNP knee	1-1	1-12	7-92 9	4-31	4-51	5-30 8
WR J.Jones	3-24	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	2-42 11	4-32	4-27	2-17	2-18	4-103 66	4-53 77 KO return	4-37	6-80	1-11	1-11
TE Clark	7-87	1-8	4-46	4-34	0-0	4-81 18	3-9 1	1-14	1-1 1	2-31	3-24	1-8	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
TE Pitta	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	DNP hip	6-48 1	2-24	4-34	8-63
K Tucker	25,30	miss: 50,44	28,45,43	35,24	42,50,25,44	23	46,38,32	51	36,46	52,21	30,26,33,53	43,34,38,45,48	-	29,24,32,49,53,61	miss: 37	38,22,34
Others	Leach 2 rec			37 INT return Doss 82 punt ret									Dickson 1 rec			

Buffalo Bills

The Bills have one of the league's most unconventional offenses. On the one hand, it's a conservative, run-oriented scheme – only the Seahawks and 49ers ran the ball on a higher percentage of plays last year. But Buffalo also uses a fast-paced tempo; only the Patriots and Broncos ran more offensive plays last season.

The result is some intriguing production. Buffalo finished with more rushing attempts than any team in the last three years. Only Philadelphia ran for more yards. And there was a healthy 15 rushing touchdowns.

Buffalo, however, probably will rank in the bottom 10 in passing yards and touchdowns – they were bottom-5 last year. In addition to the run-heavy play-calling, they've got a youngster at quarterback and an inexperienced group of pass catchers. The fantasy value on this roster is at running back.

QUARTERBACK. A year into his career, EJ Manuel looks more like Ryan Tannehill than Andrew Luck. Manuel did a few nice things as a rookie (he didn't fall on his face) but he didn't light it up either. It's too early to say for sure that the Bills have landed their franchise quarterback.

We've been here before. Twelve times this century, teams have drafted a quarterback in the first round, tossed him out there, and let him tumble through a so-so initial season. That is, set aside obvious stars like Ben Roethlisberger and Cam Newton and there are 12 who played, a lot and threw 10-14 TDs. Of that group, only two have developed into stars, Joe Flacco and Matthew Stafford. We'll call Tannehill a maybe.

The other 75 percent have flopped. That group includes Josh Freeman, Mark Sanchez and Christian Ponder (who preceded Manuel at Florida State). Not that anybody is giving up on Manuel yet. He did some good things his first year. He was better than average avoiding turnovers, and he completed a respectable 59 percent (above-average for a rookie).

But it's difficult for quarterbacks to develop. In this case, even if Manuel winds up being a franchise guy, it's tough to envision that happening this year. Buffalo has a run-dominated offense. Only four teams passed for fewer yards last year, and only the Jets (who also had a rookie quarterback) threw fewer touchdowns.

We don't see any way Manuel gets past 230 passing yards per game, with about 20 TDs – that's his ceiling. He's got above-average mobility (he averaged 19 rushing yards last year, with 2 TDs in 10 games) but he probably won't be a factor in fantasy leagues.

Thad Lewis probably will be the backup. When he started five games last year, his numbers weren't much worse than Manuel's. But Lewis isn't as mobile, doesn't have the same arm talent, and he wasn't as good finishing drives.

RUNNING BACK. The Bills will have one of the best one-two punches of runners in most games; they ranked 2nd in rushing last year. But they could use different pairs of runners, and they might go up to three in some games. Bryce Brown joins C.J. Spiller and Fred Jackson in the backfield.

Brown has talent. When LeSean McCoy got hurt in 2012, he went over 169 yards his first two starts. Only three backs have had runs over 60 yards two years in a row, and the Bills have two of them – Brown and Spiller. Brown has done it while hardly playing.

Brown rubbed the Eagles the wrong way; they traded him for just a conditional fourth-round pick. He fumbled too much in 2012, and too often he's freelanced rather than simply putting his head down and taking a short gain. Brown has lost yards on 18 percent of his carries the last two years, worst among all regular running backs. We expect he'll be a lightly-used No. 3, probably only getting a real chance after either Spiller or Jackson gets hurt.

Jackson is 33, and that's scary. Only two older backs have run for over 1,000 yards (John Riggins and John Henry Johnson), and only three 32-year-olds have done it in the last 20 years. Durability is a concern, and he's starting to slow down. He had only one run of 20-plus yards last year; Spiller had 9.

But Jackson is by far the best of these three at running between the tackles. That's why inside the 5 last year, he had 18 carries and Spiller



EJ Manuel put together a so-so rookie year. They'll give him more opportunities to throw this season.

had none (helping Jackson outscore him 10-2). Jackson also might be the best of these backs on passing downs; he caught 13 more passes than Spiller last year and averaged almost 2 more yards per reception.

Spiller is similar in size (and ability) to Jamaal Charles, but he's not as durable. Even at Clemson he struggled to stay healthy, and he wears down if used too much. Spiller was plagued by a balky ankle for most of last year. With his body type, they'll probably limit him to about 15 carries per game.

Those who draft Spiller can't count on consistent production or regular touchdowns. He won't get many goal-line looks. But if he gets more comfortable with the offense, he could be one of the league's best big-play running backs. Spiller ran for 1,244 yards two years ago, averaging 6.0 yards per carry.

The Bills also signed Anthony Dixon, and he could be a factor at the goal line. Jackson has had problems staying healthy, and the Bills might prefer Dixon anyway – he's bigger, and he handled some short-yardage work in San Francisco. Dixon is way too slow, however, to get more than a few touches overall.

RECEIVER. The Bills won't have a big-time pass catcher. They don't pass the ball well enough or often enough, and there's too many different receivers involved. We're not sure any of them will reach 800 yards or 6 TDs.

Sammy Watkins should be the No. 1 option from the get-go, and the Bills are counting on him being a big star – hence the decision to trade away next year's first-rounder to move up to the No. 4 slot in the draft. With 4.39 speed and power after the catch, he looks like a slightly smaller version of Julio Jones.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
EJ Manuel	306	180	58.8	1972	11	9	28	77.7
Thad Lewis	157	93	59.2	1092	4	3	18	81.0
Bills	522	299	57.3	3373	16	15	48	75.0
Opponents	561	310	55.3	3666	28	23	57	74.9
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
C.J. Spiller	202	933	4.6	2	1244	6	561	4
Fred Jackson	206	890	4.3	9	437	3	934	6
EJ Manuel	53	186	3.5	2	--	--	--	--
Bills	546	2307	4.2	15	2217	12	1921	12
Opponents	471	2063	4.4	10	2333	23	2224	19
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Scott Chandler	53	655	12.4	33	2	43	571	6
Stevie Johnson	52	597	11.5	45	3	79	1046	6
Robert Woods	40	587	14.7	57	3	--	--	--
Fred Jackson	47	387	8.2	37	1	34	217	1
T.J. Graham	23	361	15.7	47	2	31	322	1
C.J. Spiller	33	185	5.6	27	0	43	459	2
Bills	299	3373	11.3	59	16	309	3430	24
Opponents	310	3666	11.8	74	28	306	3669	25
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Dan Carpenter	32-32	33-36	10-11	4-6	131	92	113	115
Opponents	41-41	31-36	8-10	2-3	134	114	114	133

KICKER. The Bills are sitting on two NFL-caliber kickers. Dan Carpenter hit 33 of 36 last year, with two of the misses from 50 and 54 yards. They gave him a \$2.15 million signing bonus when they re-signed him in March, so it looks like he'll be their guy, probably knocking in 115-125 points (he was up at 131 last year).

But Buffalo also has Dustin Hopkins, and he was set to be the kicker last year. He went 6 for 6 in the preseason before suffering a groin injury. He appears to have a slightly stronger leg; he went 5 of 6 from 50-plus his last year at Florida State. He's unlikely to kick for the Bills, but another team could want him.

But receivers – even great receivers – need time to develop. In the last 20 years, 10 of them have been selected with top-5 picks. All of those guys were every bit as anticipated as Watkins, yet collectively they averaged only 50 catches, 715 yards and 5 TDs. That's probably a fair over-under for his first year.

Robert Woods isn't as talented but might finish with better numbers. He comes off a credible rookie season; after the first month, it looked like he might be the team's best receiver. But then the injuries set in and the team fell apart. Woods finished the season with 587 yards and 3 TDs in 14 games.

Woods in theory should be a little more knowledgeable and comfortable in his second year. But he's not fast enough, and he's on the small side (6-0, 190). They won't featured him in the red zone. He'll start and contribute, but no chance of him being a breakout star.

Mike Williams also is in the mix to potentially be this team's best receiver. In two of his four seasons in Tampa Bay, he went over 900 yards, with 11 and 9 touchdowns. He's been good at times at pulling down balls in traffic, maybe making him their main receiver in the red zone. Two years ago, Williams had an NFL-high 17 targets inside the 10 (but caught only 6 of them).

Williams' main issues have been off the field. He's long seemed more interested in partying like a rock star than working on his game. He admits that he needs to grow up, and maybe this trade will serve as a wakeup call. Like Woods, he's not fast enough to be a consistent downfield threat.

Marquise Goodwin could provide some speed off the bench. He's tiny (5-9, 179) but he's probably one of the five fastest players in the NFL. He caught 3 TDs as a rookie, all from 40-plus yards. They'll rotate him in, and he'll probably return a kickoff for a touchdown at some point.

Scott Chandler is one of the more underrated tight ends. He led the team with 53 receptions last year, and over the last three seasons, only seven tight ends have caught a higher percentage of the passes thrown their way.

To have any chance of making a run at being one of the top dozen players at his position, however, Chandler needs to see more balls in the red zone, and that doesn't look likely. The Bills attempted 21 passes inside the 10 last year, and only 2 of those balls (both incompletions) were intended for Chandler.

	N.E. 21-23	Car. 24-23	at NYJ 20-27	Balt. 23-20	at Cleve. 24-37	Cin. 24-27	at Mia. 23-21	at N.O. 17-35	K.C. 13-23	at Pitt. 10-23	NYJ 37-14	Atl.(Tor.) 31-34(OT)	at T.B. 6-27	at Jac. 27-20	Mia. 19-0	at N.E. 20-34
QB Manuel (run stats)	18-27-0-150 3-23 18,18	27-39-1-296 4-13 2-pt,2	19-42-0-243 6-40 2-pt,33	10-22-2-167 11-1 42	11-20-0-129 1-14	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	22-39-1-155 2-17 2	20-28-0-245 7-9 34,43	18-32-0-210 4-3 1 run,21	18-33-4-184 5-29	17-24-1-193 10-37 8 run,7,1	DNP knee	DNP knee
QB Lewis (run stats)	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	19-32-0-216 7-17 3 run,22,40	21-32-1-202 5-13	22-39-1-234 2-5 13	DNP ribs	DNP	DNP	0-0-0-0 0-0	DNP	DNP	15-25-1-193 8-13	16-29-0-247 2-4 12
RB Jackson (rec stats)	13-67 4-41	12-30 5-35 4	7-72 4-37	16-87 0-0 16	17-53 4-41 1,1	10-35 4-13	11-36 4-49 3	15-45 2-8 1	16-77 1-22	12-55 3-7	12-34 2-5	11-42 4-36 21 rec,4	5-12 4-26	17-80 1-8	18-105 2-7 9	14-60 3-53 5
RB Spiller (rec stats)	17-41 5-14	16-103 3-14	10-9 1-1	23-77 0-0	8-66 0-0 54	10-55 2-11	6-11 3-(-4)	DNP ankle	12-116 2-39	8-23 3-11	13-6 2-10	15-149 2-8 36	11-22 1-26	13-67 1-1	21-83 3-26	19-105 5-28
WR S.Johnson	3-39 18	8-111 2	6-86 2-pt rec	1-(-1)	2-19	DNP back	6-61	7-72 13	5-36	3-48	DNP groin	5-55	5-67	1-4	DNP non-injury	DNP non-injury
WR Woods	1-18 18	4-68 2-pt rec	2-35	4-80 42	5-64	2-9	3-24	1-7	4-44	DNP ankle	DNP	2-39	3-20	5-82 7	3-70	1-27
WR Goodwin	1-0	DNP hand	DNP hand	DNP hand	DNP hand	2-51 40	0-0	3-56 59	2-64 59	2-9	6-81 43	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-22
TE Chandler	4-38	3-10	5-79 33	2-28	4-49	2-47 22	2-18	7-72	3-26	3-21	2-40	4-63	2-24	5-54	2-31	3-55
K Carpenter	-	55,20,48 miss: 42	37,23,42,26	27,27,22	52	51	39,20,31	37 miss: 50	26,30	20	40,42,43	29	40,46	42,40 miss: 54	45,21,22,26	51,37
Others	74 fumble ret					19 INT return		Tuel 59 pass	Gragg 2 rec	Summers 3 run Graham 34 rec 32 INT return		Summers 1 rec				Graham 12 rec

Carolina Panthers

The worst offense is a good defense. Isn't that the old saying? The Panthers were so dominant on defense last year that they tended to get overly conservative when they had the ball.

It's a dynamic we've seen in the past from teams like the Ravens. A defense gets so strong that the mentality becomes to run the ball, limit turnovers, and control the clock, knowing that opponents will struggle to put together long drives. The Panthers improved to 12-4 last year, even while their offense scored 3 fewer touchdowns and averaged 44 fewer yards per game.

Carolina won't be quite as strong defensively this year, and that might help to open things up. They'll need to be more aggressive to keep pace in games. The offensive line is a colossal concern, losing two starters (including left tackle Jordan Gross) but the Panthers should have a middle-of-the-pack offense.

QUARTERBACK. The Panthers have been operating under the theory that less is more with Cam Newton, and that probably will stop him from being a franchise fantasy player. Only if he runs in about 8 touchdowns on his own will he have a chance to be a top-5 quarterback in fantasy leagues.

We have no issues with Newton's arm strength or accuracy. He'd probably be a top-10 passer if they structured their offense differently. This is the guy, recall, who threw for over 400 yards in each of his first two games as a pro.

But the Panthers have changed. They've been throwing less, and the throws have tended to be shorter and safer. Newton has thrown for fewer yards every year, and the balls he's completing have been shorter every year. He averaged only 11.6 yards per completion last season, 2 yards lower than his rookie year.

Newton dropped all the way down to 211 passing yards per game last year, more than only five other teams. That's probably close to rock bottom. We're expecting a move up to 225-230, but that would still be 20 yards under last year's league average. And probably something close to 23 TDs, which would also be below average. Newton hasn't been a great red-zone passer.

It will be rushing that determines if Newton is a top-tier fantasy player. He's got above-average speed, and at 245 pounds can run with power around the goal line. His rushing production help make him the 4th-best quarterback (per game) in both 2011 and 2012 in typical fantasy leagues.

But carrying the ball increases the risk of injury, so Newton has been running less. He ran for only 6 TDs last year, down from 14 and 8 in his first two years, and he averaged 9 fewer yards per game. Keeping Newton healthy is a priority, so we're figuring Newton's rushing production should be modest by his standards – maybe 500 yards and 5-6 TDs. If that's the case, Newton is more likely to be a good quarterback rather than a great one.

Backup Derek Anderson has no fantasy value. He's not as good a passer, and he's not in the same solar system as a runner. In his last two years with Cleveland and Arizona, Anderson completed only 49 percent of his passes, with twice as many interceptions as touchdowns.

RUNNING BACK. Carolina hasn't had a viable running back in the Cam Newton era. He accounts for a big chunk of the rushing production himself, and the leftovers get divided between too many running backs.

A few years back, it was just DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart sharing time. Now they're also working in Mike Tolbert. He's put up 451 and 545 total yards in the last two years. He'll be their full-back and play in some one-back formations. Tolbert caught 84 percent of the passes thrown his way last year, 4th-best among running backs.

At 5-foot-9 and 245 pounds, Tolbert is a bowling ball, and they like him at the goal line. Two years in a row he's scored 7 TDs. He was only average in short-yardage last season (you may recall him getting stopped at the 1 twice in the playoff loss against San Francisco) but Tolbert was outstanding on those plays two years ago, successful on 12 of 14 plays when they needed a yard. He should score at least 4-5 TDs.

Stewart has been hurt for most of the last two years. If he's healthy, he'll probably be their main runner. At 27, he's four years younger



Greg Olsen accounted for 25 percent of his team's catches last season, the most of any tight end.

than Williams, and he packs more power. In their final eight games together in 2012, Stewart averaged 30 more total yards per game.

While Stewart weighs 235, however, he won't be used much around the goal line. They prefer Tolbert (and Newton) there. That's why Stewart has scored only 7 TDs in his last 31 games. And as long as Williams stays healthy, Stewart will be hard pressed to finish with anything more than 800 total yards.

Williams still has enough elusiveness to break a few long plays. He scored on 27- and 43-yard runs last year. And with Stewart battling injuries, Williams has shown that maybe he should play more on third downs. In his last 20 games, Williams three times has turned short passes into touchdowns of 45-plus yards.

But at 31, Williams is a part-time player, and he won't be a factor at the goal line. He's carried the ball once inside the 3 in the last two years. With Stewart essentially missing all of last year, Williams averaged 56 rushing and 22 receiving yards, with 4 TDs in 15 games.

The Panthers have spent their last two sixth-round picks on Kenjon Barner and Tyler Gaffney, who both put up huge numbers in the Pac-12. Barner has great speed but struggled as a rookie. With his tackle-breaking ability, Gaffney looks like a potential short-yardage back. But it will be tough for either to carve out a meaningful role this season.

RECEIVER. The Panthers are taking a huge gamble with Kelvin Benjamin. At 6-foot-5 and 240 pounds, he's the biggest receiver ever selected in the first round. Maybe too big.

Don't try to compare him to Calvin Johnson or Vincent Jackson, because Benjamin can't run like those guys. He went 4.61 at the

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Cam Newton	473	292	61.7	3379	24	13	43	88.8
Opponents	563	375	66.6	3853	17	20	60	81.4
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
DeAngelo Williams	201	843	4.2	3	737	5	836	7
Cam Newton	111	585	5.3	6	741	8	706	14
Mike Tolbert	101	361	3.6	5	183	7	490	8
Jonathan Stewart	48	180	3.8	0	336	1	761	4
Panthers	483	2026	4.2	14	2088	21	2408	26
Opponents	352	1391	4.0	4	1761	11	2093	18
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Greg Olsen	73	816	11.2	31	6	69	843	5
Steve Smith	64	745	11.6	44	4	73	1174	4
Brandon LaFell	49	627	12.8	79	5	44	677	4
Ted Ginn	36	556	15.4	47	5	2	1	0
DeAngelo Williams	26	333	12.8	72	1	13	187	2
Mike Tolbert	27	184	6.8	18	2	27	268	0
Panthers	292	3379	11.6	79	24	284	3927	19
Opponents	375	3853	10.3	73	17	371	3852	22
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Graham Gano	42-42	24-27	5-7	6-6	114	47	118	100
Opponents	19-19	30-34	11-13	5-6	109	137	129	132

KICKER. Who would have thunk, when Graham Gano was missing 21 field goals in two years with Washington, that he would be signed to a four-year deal worth \$12.4 million? But Gano seems to have ironed out his accuracy issues, and he has one of the strongest legs in the league. He knocked a league-high 80 percent of his kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks last year.

Gano scored a below-average 114 points, however, and a decline could be coming. Carolina looks weaker on both offense and defense, and we're not completely sold yet on Gano's new-found accuracy. Also note that Carolina has ranked below-average in field goal attempts a league-high eight years in a row.

combine. And history tells us that big, slow receivers tend to have problems transitioning to the pros. Plaxico Burress had a good career. Mike Williams, J.J. Stokes and Reggie Williams did not.

Coming out after his sophomore year, Benjamin will need more time to develop than a typical rookie. He wasn't, recall, even the most productive wide receiver on his college team last year – Kenny Shaw caught just as many passes, and Rashad Greene caught 22 more. Keep expectations low.

The Panthers signed Jericho Cotchery and Jason Avant, and at least one of them will finish with better numbers than Benjamin. Neither one is fast enough, but they're experienced pros who know what they're doing.

Cotchery had a pair of 82-catch seasons with the Jets (who unwisely let him get away) and he turned into a valuable red-zone weapon for Ben Roethlisberger last season, catching 10 touchdowns. But don't look for him to fill that kind of role around the end zone for the Panthers. In three years with Cam Newton, Steve Smith caught only 3 TDs inside the 10-yard line.

The Eagles released Avant, but that had more to do with their offense rather than his ability. They're trying to hit big strikes downfield, and he's not fast enough for those routes. But he's a 212-pounder who can work the middle of the field, and his hands are phenomenal. He's dropped only 1 of the last 152 passes thrown his way, best in the league over the last two years.

Greg Olsen should lead this team in catches and touchdowns. He's got better hands and mobility than most tight ends, and he has a nice rapport with Newton. Over the last two years, Olsen is the only tight end in the league who's caught a quarter of his team's passes.

Olsen is not, however, a matchup nightmare like Jimmy Graham, who simply can't be covered in the end zone. Inside the 10, he's caught 7 of 16 passes the last two years, with 5 TDs. His numbers probably will be pretty similar – about 800 yards and 6 TDs.

This is the slowest group of receivers in the league, so the Panthers will probably have to rotate in a fourth receiver with some speed. Tiquan Underwood might fill that role. He showed some ability to get deep for the Bucs last year. Tavarres King looks like the other possibility; he was cut by Denver but is a former fifth-round pick.

	Sea. 7-12	at Buff. 23-24	NYG 38-0	at Ariz. 6-22	at Minn. 35-10	St. L. 30-15	at T.B. 31-13	Atl. 34-10	at S.F. 10-9	N.E. 24-20	at Mia. 20-16	T.B. 27-6	at N.O. 13-31	NYJ 30-20	N.O. 17-13	at Atl. 21-20
QB Newton (run stats)	16-23-0-125 5-38 3	21-38-1-229 4-15 13,40	15-27-1-223 7-45 3 run,16,20,47	21-39-3-308 4-25 7 run,10,79,2	20-26-0-242 9-30 19	15-17-0-204 10-26 1	23-32-0-221 11-50 6 run,1,3	23-37-2-249 5-22 8 run,14	16-32-1-169 8-15 27	19-28-0-209 7-62 9,15,25	19-38-1-174 7-51 5 run,1	18-29-2-263 5-68 1 run,16,36	22-34-0-160 6-48 17	16-24-0-273 7-12 72	13-22-1-181 4-6 14	15-27-1-149 12-72 3,7
RB Williams (rec stats)	17-86 3-14	22-85 0-0	23-120 1-(-3)	12-39 2-30	17-64 5-53	15-40 1-19	8-43 1-8 12	13-42 2-12	8-46 0-0 27	6-14 2-11	10-31 2-16	DNP thigh	13-52 1-11	15-81 3-87 72 rec	12-67 1-0 43	10-33 2-75
RB Stewart (rec stats)	PUP ankle	PUP ankle	PUP ankle	PUP ankle	PUP ankle	PUP ankle	PUP ankle	9-43 3-22	13-41 0-0	4-10 0-0	7-31 1-3	14-49 2-3	1-16 1-16	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee
RB Tolbert (rec stats)	4-10 1-(-6)	6-25 2-18	9-18 0-0 2	4-31 1-9	8-27 2-20 10 rec,1	13-36 0-0 1	7-35 4-29 3 rec	6-24 3-13 4	2-7 2-16	6-17 0-0	4-23 1-5	9-48 3-41	3-12 2-17	12-18 1-7 1	1-1 2-5	7-29 3-10
WR S. Smith	6-51 3	5-52	3-40	4-60	5-21 2	5-69 19	4-42	4-52	6-63	4-62	5-69	3-51	6-49 17	3-20	1-44	DNP knee
WR LaFell	0-0	4-13	3-53 16,20	4-47	4-107 79	3-35	3-23	6-74	4-48	7-59 9	2-36	3-36 16	2-22	3-61	1-13	0-0
WR Ginn	1-10	3-62 40	3-71 47	4-78	2-22	2-34	5-80	1-10	2-19	1-25 25	3-11	2-48 36	2-5	1-10	2-66	2-6 3
TE Olsen	5-56	7-84 13	4-54	5-79	2-19	4-47	3-21 1	4-66 14	1-14	5-52 15	5-34 1	5-85	8-40	5-88	4-35	6-42 7
K Gano	-	27,25,39	53	22,51	-	37,31,50	29	55,20	53 miss: 48	43	52,46 miss: 35	23,22	45,24 miss: 49	35,22,40	40	-
Others						45 INT return		38 INT return						41 INT ret	Hixon 14 rec	8 INT ret

Chicago Bears

Marc Trestman might be the most fantasy-friendly coach in the league. For starters, he knows what he's doing. The Bears scored 445 points last year, 2nd-most in the league. And only seven teams gained more total yards.

Trestman also isn't a big fan of rotating players or using spread formations. He doesn't use four-receiver sets or extra tight ends. He relies on one running back, one tight end, and his two starting wide receivers – these are 2014 stats with 1974 personnel groupings.

Now if they can just make some defensive fixes, they can start thinking about winning some playoff games. Chicago had the worst run defense by far last year, allowing 5.3 yards per carry (the most by any team this century). They ranked last in sacks, and only Minnesota allowed more total points.

QUARTERBACK. Jay Cutler at best is an average quarterback in comparison to the other 31 starters around the league, but put him in this offense and he might be a top-10 passer. A lot of quarterbacks would love to have Marc Trestman calling plays and Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery lined up outside.

It all worked nicely last year. Only six teams finished with more passing yards, and only four threw more touchdown passes. Inside the 10, Cutler connected on scoring passes on 47 percent of his plays, best in the league.

Under Trestman, Cutler's completion percentage rose from 59 to 63 percent. Even with the team attempting 6 more passes per game, sacks dropped by over 30 percent. The ball comes out quicker, and the offense is simply better.

But all of this success can be attributed more to play-calling and offensive design than to Cutler. When the team had to turn to Josh McCown for a third of last season, he was even better. He averaged more yards and touchdowns, and he did a better job taking care of the football (just 1 interception in essentially six games). Cutler also went only 5-6 as a starter (though he's been a winner in the past – 17-8 in the previous two years).

We expect Cutler will wind up passing for about 260 yards per game, with close to 30 TDs if he can stay healthy. This is a little below where the team was at last year, but it was helped along by McCown getting the hot hand in a streak of games against bad defenses. In his 10 complete games last year, Cutler averaged 259 passing yards, with 19 TDs (just under 2 per game).

Cutler isn't a big factor as a runner. For durability, he's only average. He's not getting hit much, but he seems more prone to injuries than other, similar quarterbacks. Four years in a row, he's missed at least one game.

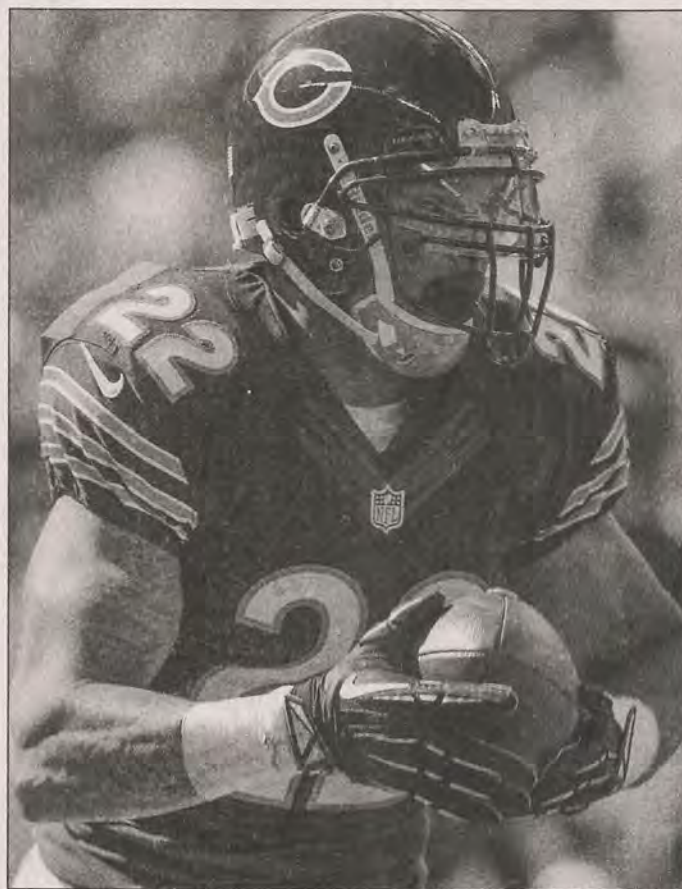
Ultimately, Cutler's ceiling is as a second-tier quarterback. He's not in that super-elite group that has the potential to average 300 passing yards or throw 40 touchdowns. But in this offense, he should finish the season as one of the top dozen passers.

RUNNING BACK. The Bears have an average rushing attack, but Matt Forte should be an elite runner anyway. He's one of the few tailbacks who doesn't get spelled much, and he's also a big part of their passing game.

With his all-around game, Forte is a perfect fit with this offense. He put up career-best numbers last year across the board – catches, rushing yards, receiving yards and touchdowns. Only one running back in the league (LeSean McCoy) handled the ball more often.

Forte should be heavily used again this season. He accounted for 72 percent of his team's rushing attempts, last year, the most of anyone in the league. And only two running backs caught more passes. Marc Trestman has been heavily using running backs as pass catchers in his offenses for years. It all added up to 1,933 combined yards last season.

Forte isn't a good short-yardage runner; he's been successful on only 13 of 29 carries the last four years when the team has needed 1 yard to either score or keep a drive alive. That's why they've tended to replace him with Michael Bush at the goal line. But Bush is gone and the Bears don't have any other backs like that, so Forte should score more of those 1-yard touchdowns this year.



JEFF LEWIS/ICON SM

Matt Forte should be busy. He handled the ball 363 times last year, 2nd-most among running backs.

Durability is an issue with any running back slated to handle the ball 350 times. Forte is 28 and has taken a pounding over the last six years. But he's at least shown some durability and willingness to play through injuries. He missed one game in 2012 and four games in 2011, but he's played all 16 games in his other four seasons. He looks like a strong candidate for 1,800-plus total yards and double-digit touchdowns.

Because of the way the Bears run their offense (with one guy carrying the load) their No. 2 tailback holds considerable value. Fourth-rounder KaDeem Carey should fill that role. He ran for at least 119 yards in every game last year at Arizona. If not for a couple of off-field incidents, he might have been picked a round earlier (he was arrested after a domestic violence incident with his girlfriend in December of 2012, but charges were later dropped).

But Carey played in a spread system in college, so there's a learning curve there, and he also runs only 4.7. So there's a chance Michael Ford will be the No. 2 for this season. Ford wasn't even drafted last year, but he's 10 pounds heavier and two tenths faster. Ford played only special teams last year but carried 18 times for 106 yards in his final two preseason games.

RECEIVER. There's not much difference between Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery. They're both big and talented, and they both have the ability to potentially finish the season as top-5 receivers. Probably neither one will make it out of the third round in a typical fantasy draft.

With Jeffery, you get more big-play ability. He's faster. He averaged 3 more yards per catch, and got downfield for 3 TDs from 45-plus yards. And the Bears will look to utilize that athleticism on end-

arounds – Jeffery ran for 105 yards last year. With Marshall, all 23 of his touchdowns the last two years have come inside 40 yards.

Including the rushing production, Jeffery averaged 15 more yards per game last season. He had two games over 200. In the modern era, only two other wide receivers have gone over 200 twice in the same season – Calvin Johnson and Josh Gordon.

With Marshall, you get more savviness around the end zone. He's been around for eight years, and he's spent five of them working with Jay Cutler. There's a chemistry there, and it tends to show up in crucial situations – like around the goal line. Inside the 10, Marshall caught 10 of 16 passes last year, including 9 scores. Jeffery caught only 4 of 12 balls in that area, with just 3 scores.

We've seen similar situations in the past with Randy Moss and Cris Carter and with Julio Jones and Roddy White. Jeffery is the younger, Moss-Jones receiver who'll make more dynamic plays. But Marshall is the more reliable Carter-White guy who'll come up with more of the money grabs. Ultimately, these guys are pretty similar – probably slightly more yards for Jeffery and slightly more touchdowns for Marshall.

The Bears want Marquess Wilson to be their No. 3, but that's not a big part of their offense. They released Earl Bennett, who caught 32 passes and 4 TDs in that role last year. Wilson is cheaper, faster and taller, but he needs to hit the weight room. Think about how skinny A.J. Green is at 6-foot-4 and 207. Wilson is the same height but was 23 pounds lighter last year. Whether it's Wilson or Josh Morgan, that third receiver won't be a factor.

Martellus Bennett is a pretty ordinary tight end. He's nothing special in terms of speed, hands or route-running ability. He's not even the best football player in his own family, with Michael Bennett emerging last year to help Seattle win the Super Bowl. The Bears also don't emphasize the position; only Pittsburgh threw a lower percentage of touchdowns to tight ends last year.

But Bennett at least is the only tight end the Bears use (their No. 2 guy, Dante Rosario, caught 1 pass last year), and Chicago has one of the better passing offenses. With those dynamics working in his favor, Bennett has a chance to perhaps push into the top 10 at his position. He caught 65 passes for 759 yards and 5 TDs last year.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Jay Cutler	355	224	63.1	2621	19	12	19	89.2
Josh McCown	224	149	66.5	1829	13	1	11	109.0
Bears	579	373	64.4	4450	32	13	30	96.9
Opponents	507	315	62.1	3919	25	19	31	86.9
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Matt Forte	289	1339	4.6	9	1094	5	997	3
Michael Bush	63	197	3.1	3	411	5	977	7
Jay Cutler	23	118	5.1	0	233	0	55	1
Alshon Jeffery	16	105	6.6	0	0	0	--	--
Bears	404	1828	4.5	13	1970	11	2015	10
Opponents	483	2583	5.3	22	1627	6	1542	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Alshon Jeffery	89	1421	16.0	80	7	24	367	3
Brandon Marshall	100	1295	12.9	44	12	118	1508	11
Martellus Bennett	65	759	11.7	43	5	55	626	5
Matt Forte	74	594	8.0	34	3	44	340	1
Earl Bennett	32	243	7.6	17	4	29	375	2
Bears	373	4450	11.9	80	32	287	3298	21
Opponents	315	3919	12.4	48	25	350	3712	19
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Robbie Gould	45-46	26-29	6-7	3-4	123	96	121	110
Opponents	54-54	28-30	7-8	1-2	138	95	123	92

KICKER. It's one thing to be an accurate kicker in a dome or at a warm-weather site. Robbie Gould does it at Soldier Field. In nine years there, he's converted 86 percent of his field goals. Opposing kickers, in those same games, are down at 78 percent. See the difference?

For fantasy purposes, however, a kicker's value is determined primarily by what's going on around him. In this case, the Bears have a good offense but tend to score touchdowns rather than field goals, limiting Gould's ability to show off his greatness. Three years in a row, the Bears have ranked 14th in kicking points, and they've finished within a PAT of 122 points in all three of those seasons.

	Cin. 24-21	Min. 31-30	at Pitt. 40-23	at Det. 32-40	N.O. 18-26	NYG 27-21	at Wash. 41-45	at G.B. 27-20	Det. 19-21	Balt. 23-20	at St.L. 21-42	at Minn. 20-23	Dall. 45-28	at Clev. 38-31	at Phil. 11-54	G.B. 28-33
QB Cutler (run stats)	21-33-1-242 3-16 8,19	27-38-2-292 3-9 1,34,16	20-30-0-159 4-11 17	27-47-3-317 1-9 2-2-pt,14,10	24-33-0-358 4-27 3,2	24-36-0-262 3-20 10,3	3-8-1-28 0-0	DNP groin	21-40-1-250 0-0 32	DNP ankle	DNP ankle	DNP ankle	DNP ankle	22-31-2-265 3-11 5,45,4	20-35-1-222 2-15 2-pt,6	15-24-1-226 0-0 4,5
QB McCown (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	14-20-0-204 4-33 7	22-41-0-272 1-20 23,6	6-9-0-62 0-0 11	19-31-0-216 2-(-1) 14	36-47-1-352 2-4 7,3	23-36-0-355 0-0 80,46	27-36-0-348 3-16, 2-pt pass 7 run,25,17,4,4	DNP	2-4-0-20 1-(-3)	DNP
RB Forte (rec stats)	19-50 4-41 1	20-88 10-73	16-87 4-24 5	14-95 5-22 53	12-55 4-40 2-pt run	19-67 6-44	16-91 2-18 2,50,6	24-125 5-54 1	17-33 4-16	18-83 5-42 14 rec	16-77 7-40	23-120 2-31	20-102 7-73 4 rec	24-127 1-4	9-29 4-25	22-110 4-47 4 rec,5,1
RB Bush (rec stats)	6-15 0-0	2-0 0-0	8-9 0-0 1	0-0 0-0	2-12 0-0	6-8 1-6	DNP	7-25 1-15	1-0 0-0	3-5 0-0	7-(-5) 1-10 1	1-15 0-0	8-38 1-17 17 rec	3-44 0-0 40	7-20 0-0	2-11 0-0
WR Marshall	8-104 19	7-113 34	5-52	7-79 2-pt rec	4-30 2	9-87 10,3	6-75	7-107 23	7-139 32,11	4-42	10-117 3	4-45	6-100 2-pt rec	6-95 5	4-36 6	6-74 5
WR Jeffery	5-42	1-11	7-51	5-107 2-pt rec,14	10-218 3	1-27	4-105	5-60 6	9-114	7-83	4-42	12-249 80,46	5-84 25	5-72 45	6-76	3-80
WR E.Bennett	1-6	2-19	2-22 17	2-19 10	1-14	0-0	3-24	0-0	2-10	1-1	8-58	2-17	2-18 4	4-23 4	2-12 2-pt rec	DNP non-injury
TE M.Bennett	3-49 8	7-76 1,16	2-10	8-90	5-56	6-68	1-7 7	4-36	4-29	2-48	4-62 7	2-14	5-43	6-71	5-85	1-15
K Gould	58	20	47,32 miss: XP	34,28,25	27	40,52	47,49 miss: 34	24,27	25,32	20,46,38	-	30,42 miss: 66,47	27,34,23	23	50	-
Others		44 INT ret	42 fumble ret 38 INT ret		48 INT return	Hester 81 punt return				24 INT return				43 INT return		

Cincinnati Bengals

Any time a team compiles great numbers, it's set up to disappoint the next year, and that's how it lays out for the Bengals. It will be tough to match last season, when only Denver did a better job of finishing drives in the red zone and only three offenses scored more touchdowns.

The offensive line probably won't be quite as good, defenses should make adjustments, or some plays might simply underachieve. Cincinnati also will be working with a new offensive coordinator. Jay Gruden took the head coaching job in Washington, so Hue Jackson will call the plays.

Jackson won't necessarily be worse; he's got head-coaching experience, and his running games in Oakland were very good. But with tweaks in play calling (and other factors) Cincinnati easily could score a half-dozen fewer touchdowns.

QUARTERBACK. Andy Dalton has thrown 60 touchdowns in the last two years, yet everyone's pondering whether he's good enough. That's the odd reality.

Dalton is a starting-caliber quarterback. He averaged 268 yards per game last season, and only Peyton Manning and Drew Brees have thrown more touchdowns the last two years. Dalton is one of only five quarterbacks who's taken his team to the postseason in each of his first three seasons.

But the Bengals are 0-3 in the playoffs, and Dalton has come up small in all of those games – 6 interceptions and only one touchdown. At times last year, it seems they won the AFC North in spite of him. He became the first quarterback in four years to throw 20 interceptions and still make the playoffs.

As luck would have it, Dalton's in a contract year, leaving the Bengals mulling whether to sign him to an extension. Is this a franchise-type quarterback who's worth \$16-plus million per year? Or is this a limited-upside quarterback they should let walk? Joe Flacco was in the same position two years ago and broke the bank with a Super Bowl season.

We can't guarantee Dalton will still be around in 2015 (probably, but not for sure) but including rushing production he looks a pretty safe bet to put up at least 29 touchdowns and 270 yards per game, and there aren't a lot of those quarterbacks around. He's also among the most likely to start all 16 games; the Bengals allowed a league-low 47 quarterback hits last year.

The Bengals added Jason Campbell to be their backup. If he starts any games, his numbers might not be much worse than Dalton's. Campbell averaged 251 yards in the eight games he started for Cleveland last year, with 11 TDs and 8 interceptions. He'll beat out fifth-rounder A.J. McCarron.

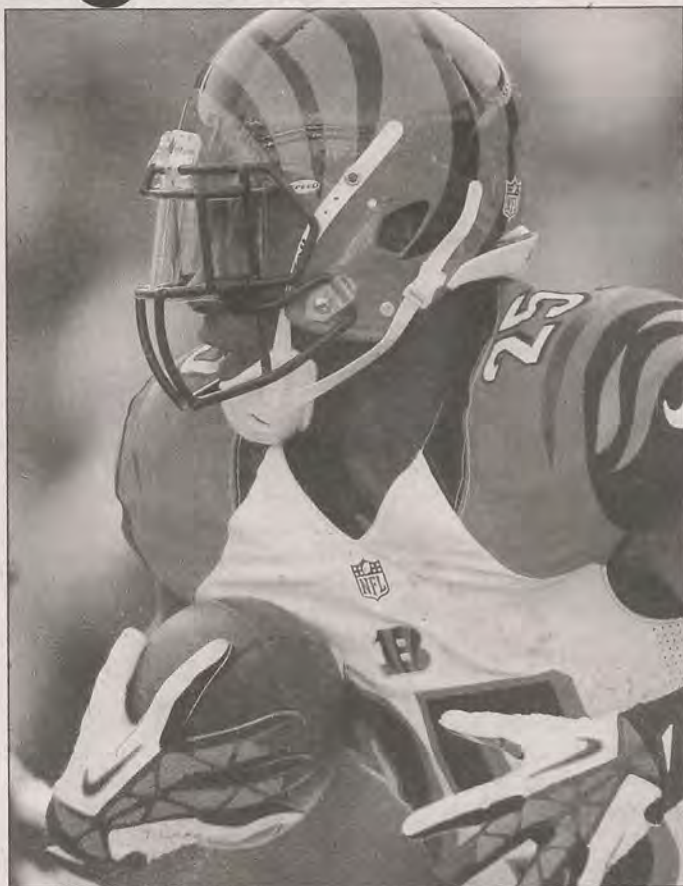
RUNNING BACK. Hue Jackson is the offensive coordinator now, and that might help the running game. His Oakland offenses, with pretty ordinary personnel, ranked 2nd and 7th in rushing, averaging 145 yards per game, with 35 touchdowns in 32 games.

Under Jay Gruden, the Bengals never ranked higher than 18th in rushing, averaging 110 yards per game and 12 touchdowns per season. About 10 percent improvement across the board looks possible.

It will be a one-two punch, with Giovani Bernard and probably Jeremy Hill sharing the load. The Bengals also have BenJarvus Green-Ellis, but he'll probably play a significant role only if Hill gets hurt or is slow to pick up the offense. Green-Ellis is a reliable veteran but doesn't have enough speed; he averaged only 3.4 yards per attempt last year.

Bernard might finish with 400 more receiving yards than the other running backs. He caught 56 passes as a rookie, including a league-high (for running backs) 9 that went for 20-plus yards. Hill looks serviceable (he caught 18 balls last year at Louisiana State) but isn't in the same class as a pass catcher. Green-Ellis is a liability in the passing game; he caught only 4 passes all of last year.

The rushing yards will be closer. Bernard is an explosive, compact runner, but he averaged only 11 attempts per game as a rookie. They don't want to overuse him, causing him to break down or wear down. Bernard had problems staying healthy at North Carolina.



STAN LILJUSA TODAY SPORTS

Giovani Bernard is a good runner but a better receiver. He had a league-high 9 catches over 20 yards last year.

"You are shooting for a 20-game season," says Marvin Lewis. "Make sure he is not nicked up and can be what we need for those 20 weeks." Sounds like 1,300 combined yards and 6-8 TDs is a fair estimate for Bernard. He won't get many carries at the goal line.

Hill should be their other main back; that was the thinking when they selected him late in the second round. At 233 pounds, he's a bigger, faster version of Green-Ellis, consistently banging out tough yards between the tackles. He ran for 1,401 yards and 16 touchdowns last year, averaging 6.9 yards per carry. He also fumbled only once in his college career.

Hill worked out of a pro-style offense at Louisiana State, potentially making his transition to the pros easier. If he can move past Green-Ellis in August (and we think he will) he'll be as likely as Bernard to lead this team in rushing. He'd also be their goal-line back. Green-Ellis last year carried the ball 50 more times than Bernard, finishing with 61 more rushing yards overall.

Green-Ellis might not even make the team. He'll be 29 on opening day, and he's due \$2.5 million. Cincinnati has other running backs – Rex Burkhead, Cedric Peerman – who are younger, cheaper and better on special teams. With a limited overall game, Green-Ellis may have to wait for injuries on other teams before he's able to land a backup spot somewhere.

RECEIVER. The Bengals are loaded with talented pass catchers. The only worry is whether there will be enough balls to go around – three wide receivers, two tight ends and Gio Bernard are all looking to catch 50-plus passes.

A.J. Green is one of the league's most talented receivers – a Randy Moss body type who can run by cornerbacks and pull down high

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

throws in the red zone. Two years in a row he's caught 11 touchdowns and at least 97 passes. He went over 150 yards three times last year.

In this offense, however, Green shouldn't be as heavily used as some of the other franchise receivers. The Bengals have other options to use when Green is double covered, and some opponents will have success against him. He caught only 55 percent of the passes thrown to him last year, which is well below-average. We're expecting something along the lines of 1,300 yards and 10 TDs, rather than true pinball numbers.

Cincinnati has selected a pair of tight ends in the first round, but neither one looks particularly appealing. The Bengals seem to have decided that Jermaine Gresham is more of a blocker than a pass catcher. He caught only 46 passes and 4 TDs last year, the worst numbers of his career. They're not trying to get him downfield anymore, and they're not using him around the goal line.

Tyler Eifert is a pass-catching tight end who can split outside; he caught 39 passes as a rookie. Maybe they try to make him a bigger part of the offense, but it doesn't look particularly likely. They tried to make him one of their featured guys around the goal line last year, with little success (he caught only 2 of 6 passes thrown to him inside the 10).

Instead, Marvin Jones should be their best non-Green receiver, especially around the end zone. Statistically, he was the most effective pass catcher in the league inside the 10 last year, grabbing 7 of 8 passes. Jones caught only 51 passes, but he scored 10 touchdowns. They'll try to get him in some one-on-one matchups in that part of the field.

Hoping for another 8-plus touchdowns, however, is a long shot. Jones doesn't have special talent, and defenses should do a better job against him. He caught 4 TDs against the Jets last year; otherwise he caught only 6 TDs in 16 games (including the postseason). He averaged only 45 yards per game, and he didn't get better as the year wore on. Since 1990, 25 wide receivers have caught 9-plus touchdowns while catching under 60 passes; only eight of those receivers (about a third) caught more than 5 TDs the next year.

Mohamed Sanu should be primarily a slot receiver. He doesn't have enough speed to get downfield, so they'll use him only on short

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Andy Dalton	586	363	61.9	4293	33	20	29	88.8
Opponents	614	362	59.0	3623	22	20	43	74.2
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
B. Green-Ellis	220	756	3.4	7	1094	6	667	11
Giovani Bernard	170	695	4.1	5	--	--	--	--
Andy Dalton	61	183	3.0	2	120	4	152	1
Bengals	481	1755	3.6	14	1745	11	1778	10
Opponents	385	1544	4.0	6	1715	13	1675	14
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
A.J. Green	98	1426	14.6	82	11	97	1350	11
Marvin Jones	51	712	14.0	45	10	18	201	1
Giovani Bernard	56	514	9.2	41	3	--	--	--
Jermaine Gresham	46	458	10.0	30	4	64	737	5
Mohamed Sanu	47	455	9.7	32	2	16	154	4
Tyler Eifert	39	445	11.4	61	2	--	--	--
Bengals	364	4321	11.9	82	33	335	3807	28
Opponents	362	3623	10.0	74	22	346	3761	16
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Mike Nugent	52-53	18-22	7-9	3-4	106	92	132	62
Bengals	52-53	18-22	7-9	3-4	106	133	132	102
Opponents	31-31	26-31	9-11	4-4	109	114	101	127

stuff underneath. He averaged only 9.7 yards per catch last year, with just 2 TDs. At best, he picks up some of those goal-line opportunities, sneaking up to 50 catches and 5 TDs.

KICKER. Cincinnati's offense was good last year – too good for Mike Nugent. It was one of only two to put up over twice as many touchdowns (47) as field goal attempts (22), and that helped make Nugent a rare bottom-10 kicker on a division champion. Not since the Dolphins in 2008 had a team with 11 wins finished in the bottom 10 in kicking points.

But that kind of trend can flip around in a hurry. Offensive coordinator Jay Gruden is gone, personnel has changed, and the Bengals easily could attempt a dozen more field goals. The team ranked 7th in scoring at this position in both of the seasons prior to last year.

	at Chi. 21-24	Pitt. 20-10	G.B. 34-30	at Clev. 6-17	N.E. 13-6	at Buff. 27-24	at Det. 27-24	NYJ 49-9	at Mia. 20-22(ot)	at Balt. 17-20(ot)	Clev. 41-20	at S.D. 17-10	Ind. 42-28	at Pitt. 20-30	Minn. 42-14	Balt. 34-17
QB Dalton (run stats)	26-33-2-282 2-2 2,45	25-45-0-280 3-10 27	20-28-1-235 4-3 20,11	23-42-1-206 4-13	20-27-1-212 6-25	26-40-1-337 7-17 18,20,10	24-34-0-372 1-6 82,12,32	19-30-1-325 0-0 4,9,6,14,6	32-53-3-338 5-12	24-51-3-274 6-22 51,18	13-27-2-93 4-0 25,6,2	14-23-1-190 3-9 21	24-35-0-275 5-11 8 run,9,29,1	25-44-0-230 4-20 1,13	27-38-0-363 1-10 29,2,7,16	21-36-4-281 6-23 1 run,16,53
RB Green-Ellis (rec stats)	14-25 1-4 5	22-75 1-5 2	10-29 0-0 2	6-13 0-0	19-67 0-0 1	18-86 0-0	10-24 0-0	11-33 0-0	21-72 0-0	9-36 0-0	16-62 0-0	20-92 1-3 4	17-48 0-0 1,1	4-4 0-0	12-24 1-10 4	11-66 0-0
RB Bernard (rec stats)	4-22 1-8	8-38 1-27 27 rec,7	10-50 4-49 3	10-37 6-38	13-62 2-7	15-28 6-72 20 rec	7-27 5-32	5-18 1-9	9-79 4-25 3,35	14-58 8-37 18 rec	10-45 4-41	14-57 1-9	12-99 4-49	13-33 2-13 1	13-20 2-47	13-22 5-51
WR Green	9-162 2,45	6-41	4-46 20	7-51	5-61	6-103 18	6-155 82	3-115	11-128	8-151 51	2-7	5-83 21	6-72 9	9-93	7-97 29,2	4-61 53
WR M.Jones	1-7	3-35	3-38 11	0-0	2-39	3-71 10	4-57 12	8-122 9,6,14,6	4-66	1-2	1-9	2-12	3-60 29	5-48 13	6-85	5-61 16
WR Sanu	4-19	5-40	4-68	3-19	2-28	5-44	1-12	1-24	6-62	3-26	2-11 6	1-9	2-26	3-20	4-35 7	1-12
TE Gresham	5-35	6-66	4-27	3-53	4-24	2-5	4-64	2-14 4	3-33	DNP groin	2-27 25	0-0	5-41 1	3-23	3-46 16	DNP hamstring
TE Eifert	5-47	3-66	1-7	3-39	5-53	2-13	3-45 32	2-23	3-14	3-55	1-15	1-9	3-20	3-33 1	1-6	DNP neck
K Nugent	-	41,25	- miss: XP,52	25,43	39,50	46,43 miss: 34	48,54 miss: 47	-	31,54	32 miss: 42	41,38	46	-	-	-	39,38
Others			58 fumble ret					32 INT return 60 INT return			24 blocked punt 13 fumble ret A.Smith 2 rec			25 INT ret	21 INT ret	

Cleveland Browns

Rob Chudzinski is out; Mike Pettine is in, and that could help make Cleveland's offense the most heavily altered in the league. We're expecting a lot more running and a lot less passing.

Under the old coaching staff, the Browns went with a pass-dominated offense. They finished with 730 pass plays, 3rd-most in history, helping the team finish with surprising passing stats – 273 yards per game and 26 TDs.

Pettine has hired Kyle Shanahan as his offensive coordinator, and he'll go with a more run-oriented approach. In Washington last year, his offense ranked 5th in rushing and 16th in passing. The Browns have different personnel, of course, but on our board we're projecting them to have one of the most improved running games, while their passing production should drop by at least 20 percent.

QUARTERBACK. Brian Hoyer and Johnny Manziel should both start a good chunk of games, but neither is likely to make much of an impact. Manziel doesn't have the know-how yet, while Hoyer simply isn't good enough.

We'll concede that Hoyer was productive in his two complete games last year, averaging 295 yards, with 5 TDs. But his best outing came against a Minnesota defense that was historically bad against the pass. His arm might not be strong enough, and he has limited footspeed. This is a former undrafted free agent who's been with four teams.

The Browns won't pass nearly as often this season, and they might go the entire year without Josh Gordon, who played at a Calvin Johnson level last year. In the new, more conservative offense, Hoyer probably wouldn't average much more than about 225 yards and a touchdown per week.

With Manziel, there's some running potential. He ran for 1,410 yards and 21 touchdowns during his Heisman season at Texas A&M. But he won't be an elite scrambler in the pros. He's not fast enough; he ran a 4.68 at the combine. Think of Manziel as a slightly faster version of Russell Wilson. He may never run for more than 500 yards or 5 TDs in a season.

For improvising ability, Manziel is off the charts. He has an uncanny ability, while running around like Fran Tarkenton, of pulling up and finding open receivers. He sees the field, and he might be the best river-boat gambler at the position since Brett Favre. That's the compelling aspect of his game.

But too often Manziel gives up on plays too early, pulling the ball down and going into grab-bag mode. At the pro level, too many of those plays might turn into sacks, interceptions and fumbles. If the scouting report published at BroBible.com is real, the Patriots think Manziel has some Ryan Leaf in him – that he's a prima donna who won't study film or listen to coaches.

In our eyes, Manziel as a rookie won't be any more effective than Hoyer as a passer. This team won't finish with more than 20 touchdown passes. Coupling that with above-average rushing production, fantasy leaguers might squeeze out a few spot starts. But with Manziel taking plenty of hits and struggling at times, we don't see him starting more than about 10 games.

RUNNING BACK. Kyle Shanahan is implementing a zone-blocking running scheme. Ben Tate played in that system in Houston. And maybe that's the formula that helps Cleveland avoid finishing with a bottom-10 running game for the fourth year in a row. That's the plan, anyway.

Our main beef with Tate is that he hasn't been durable enough. He was slowed by five different injuries last year. The previous year he missed five games. He missed all of his rookie season with a broken ankle. If he can't even stay healthy when he's primarily a backup, how can he be counted on to average 20 carries per game?

Tate also simply might not be good enough. He was very good back in 2011, but he's averaged a modest 4.3 yards per carry the last two seasons, and one of those teams was a 12-4 division champion. Tate has averaged a fumble for every 49 carries the last two years, 2nd-worst among backs with at least 200 attempts. And he's been terrible on passing downs, averaging only 4.2 yards per catch the last two years (worst among all running backs).



Jordan Cameron has great hands, but his role should decline as the Browns rely more on their ground game.

So it's a wait-and-see deal. The Browns have a good enough offensive line, so maybe Tate cranks out 1,200 yards. But there are plenty of ways things could go wrong.

Third-rounder Terrance West is intriguing. He ran for a record 2,509 yards and 41 touchdowns last year at Towson. Granted, that's a notch below the Division I schools, but those are big numbers. He passes the eyeball test, weighing 225 pounds and running 4.54.

In our eyes, West looks like a faster version of Joique Bell, who went over 2,000 yards at Wayne State, bounced off and on rosters for a couple of years, and then became a viable back for the Lions. There could be an adjustment period, but the Browns could decide they like West more than Tate.

A notch down, Edwin Baker also could be a factor. He was overshadowed at Michigan State by LeVeon Bell and has been released by three teams, but Baker played reasonably well when they used him in the final three games last year, running for 171 yards on 43 carries. The Browns signed talented but trouble rookie free agent Isaiah Crowell, but he'll be hard pressed to beat out Baker.

Cleveland should have a third-down back, and Chris Ogbonnaya and Dion Lewis look like the main contenders for that job. Ogbonnaya caught 48 passes last year, but he's too slow to be considered for more of a featured-back role. Lewis is more elusive but at 195 pounds isn't as good in pass protection.

RECEIVER. Josh Gordon could be out for the season, and that would leave the Browns with the most pedestrian receivers in the league. Of the four guys they're counting on, none would start for any other team.

Gordon led the league with 1,646 receiving yards last year, even though

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Jason Campbell	317	180	56.8	2015	11	8	16	76.9
Brandon Weeden	267	141	52.8	1731	9	9	27	70.3
Browns	681	379	55.7	4372	26	20	49	75.7
Opponents	605	363	60.0	3723	29	14	40	84.1
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Willis McGahee	138	377	2.7	2	731	4	1199	4
Chris Ogbonnaya	49	240	4.9	0	30	0	340	1
Edwin Baker	43	171	4.0	2	--	--	--	--
Browns	348	1383	4.0	4	1593	12	1531	4
Opponents	462	1781	3.9	13	1898	14	2359	12
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Josh Gordon	87	1646	18.9	95	9	50	805	5
Jordan Cameron	80	917	11.5	53	7	20	226	1
Greg Little	41	465	11.3	47	2	53	647	4
Davone Bess	42	362	8.6	20	2	61	778	1
Chris Ogbonnaya	48	343	7.1	17	2	24	187	0
Browns	379	4372	11.5	95	26	328	3668	16
Opponents	363	3723	10.3	50	29	378	4156	27
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Billy Cundiff	32-32	21-26	7-9	2-4	95	38	122	117
Opponents	43-43	27-32	9-11	4-7	124	102	121	116

KICKER. Billy Cundiff projects to be the kicker, but hard to believe the Browns won't be looking at other options. He's one of the top-5 kickoff guys in the league, but he isn't accurate enough on placements. Among guys with at least 100 attempts, he's last in career accuracy, and he tends to press on longer kicks – just 7 of 25 from 50-plus yards.

Cundiff hit a more palatable 21 of 26 last year, so the Browns might just stick with him (his kickoffs are great). But no kicker would make much of an impact with this offense anyway. Phil Dawson is one of the best, and he was a top-15 scorer only once in 14 years with Cleveland.

he sat out the first two games for violating the substance-abuse policy. Now, if reports are accurate, he's failed an additional test, putting him in line for a season-long suspension. Maybe the attorneys can find a loophole or cook up some kind of deal, but looks like he'll miss at least half of the year.

Andrew Hawkins probably would be best suited to be a slot receiver; that's how the Bengals used him, and he's tiny (5-7, 180). But the Browns signed him to a four-year deal worth \$13.6 million, and he was the star of their June OTAs. "The guy runs his routes so hard, it reminds me a lot of my time in New England with Welker," says Brian Hoyer. "He's just a competitor."

The Browns signed Miles Austin, a one-time star, but he's been plagued by hamstring injuries for years and his effectiveness has waned. He caught only 24 passes in 11 games last year, with no touchdowns. The previous season, the Cowboys averaged 312 passing yards but Austin still managed to average only 59 yards, with just 6 of the team's 29 touchdowns.

Nate Burleson has some ability to work underneath routes. He caught 72 percent of the passes thrown to him last year, tying for first among wide receivers. But he's not fast enough to make anyone miss or get downfield. He's averaged only 10.5 yards per catch over the last three years.

Cleveland signed Earl Bennett, but he's too much like Burleson – a plodding veteran better suited for a reserve role. In the last three years, Earl Bennett has caught 85 passes for 999 yards, with 7 TDs in 38 games.

Ultimately with all of these receivers, the market has spoken. They were all free agents for months, and no other teams were interested in signing them. Unlikely that any of them can reach 800 yards or 6 touchdowns.

Cleveland also has Travis Benjamin. When healthy, he might be the best punt returner in the league (2 TDs on 25 career returns). But coming off ACL surgery, he may need time to regain all that explosiveness. He'll play sparingly at receiver – put him out there for a few plays per week and try to hit a big play.

Tight end Jordan Cameron should lead this team in receiving, but his role should shrink. The Browns won't pass as often or effectively, and more opponents started making him more of a priority. Even last year, Cameron declined significantly after a fast start – 30 catches and 5 TDs in the first four games but only 50 catches and 2 TDs over the rest of the season.

	Mia. 10-23	at Balt. 6-14	at Minn. 31-27	Cin. 17-6	Buff. 37-24	Det. 17-31	at G.B. 13-31	at K.C. 17-23	Balt. 24-18	at Cin. 20-41	Pitt. 11-27	Jac. 28-32	at N.E. 26-27	Chi. 31-38	at NYJ 13-24	at Pitt. 7-20
QB Campbell (run stats)	DNP	1-4-0-6 0-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	22-36-0-293 3-17 39,17	23-35-0-262 4-20 1,20,4	27-56-3-248 0-0 74	14-22-0-124 1-(-1) conclusion	DNP	29-44-0-391 2-27 40,80,4	23-39-2-273 1-17 43	18-40-2-178 2-21 1-6	23-41-1-240 1-6 35
QB Weeden (run stats)	26-53-3-289 0-0 7	21-33-0-227 2-7 thumb	DNP	DNP	13-24-0-197 3-0 37	26-43-2-292 2-10 4,2	17-42-1-149 2-20 2	DNP	1-2-0-0 0-0	DNP	13-30-1-209 1-2 2-pt,1	24-40-2-370 2-5 21,4,95	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
QB Hoyer (run stats)	DNP	DNP	30-54-3-321 1-(-2) 47,19,7	25-38-0-269 4-7 2,1	2-4-0-25 1-11	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
RB McGahee (rec stats)	free agent	free agent	8-9 0-0	15-46 0-0	26-72 0-0 1	10-37 1-2	11-39 0-0	9-28 2-0	21-31 0-0	6-13 2-4	4-12 0-0	14-57 2-14 1	14-33 1-0	DNP	0-0 0-0	DNP
RB Ogbonnaya (rec stats)	0-0 1-10	0-0 2-24	2-23 4-30	5-27 5-21 1 rec	0-0 1-7	5-24 7-61 4 rec	4-15 0-0	3-12 3-15	0-0 5-39	8-69 6-30	4-26 2-15	7-20 2-14	5-9 3-25	5-7 5-39	1-8 1-4	0-0 1-9
WR Gordon	league suspension	league suspension	10-146 47	4-71	4-86 37	7-126	2-21	5-132 39	3-44	5-125 74	14-237 1	10-261 21,95	7-151 80	3-67 43	6-97	7-82
WR Little	4-26	4-33	3-19	0-0	3-71	2-12 2	4-49	1-8	7-122	1-4	2-17	2-9 4	2-14	4-68	1-4	1-9
TE Cameron	9-108 7	5-95	6-66 19,11,7	10-91 2	3-36	5-64	7-55 2	4-81	1-4	6-29	3-32	4-43	9-121 4	3-23	DNP concussion	5-69
K Cundiff	39	21,51	38	51 miss: 37,49	30,24,44	40	46,44	44	22	20,28	49 miss: 46	miss: 53	43,37 miss: 58	35	27,21	-
Others		Lanning XP Lanning 11 pass			44 INT return 79 punt return			Whittaker 17 rec Bess 1 rec Bess 20 rec		29 INT ret Bess 2-pt rec			Barridge 40 rec 44 INT ret 51 fumble ret Baker 2 run		Baker 5 run Whittaker 35 rec	

Dallas Cowboys

The Cowboys have had one of the league's most pass-heavy offenses in recent years, and that probably won't change under their new play caller, Scott Linehan. Linehan has been in the league for years, and his last eight offenses have all ranked higher in passing than rushing. Five of those offenses (including Detroit the last four years) ranked over 10 spots higher.

In his 12 years, Linehan has had only two teams rank in the top 10 in rushing, and those were helped along by Daunte Culpepper (a running quarterback). The better production for Linehan's offenses has come through the air – 260 yards per game and 25 TDs per season, on average. His non-Culpepper offenses have averaged only 105 rushing yards per game, with 11 touchdowns per season.

Linehan inherits a nice nucleus of talent, and it's a group that will be helped if the Cowboys can patch up one of the league's worst defenses. Dallas ran a league-low 957 plays last year in part because it couldn't get anyone off the field. About a top-10 offense is what we're expecting.

QUARTERBACK. Tony Romo won't lead the league in yards or touchdown passes, but he's a solid second-tier quarterback. Three years in a row he's ranked 8th to 10th in adjusted per-game production for quarterbacks.

Romo was actually a little down last year. He had one monster game against Denver, passing for 506 yards and 5 TDs, but otherwise averaged only 237 passing yards, with 26 TDs in 14 games. Setting that game aside, he was not a top-20 quarterback last year in traditional fantasy leagues.

But they'll get him back on track. He's been productive, and he's done it for a lot of years. Over the past three seasons, only four quarterbacks have averaged more touchdown passes (1.91 per game) and only six have averaged more yards (275 per game). He's had some untimely gaffes, but Romo is actually one of the best at avoiding interceptions – just 39 in his last 47 games.

Now Scott Linehan takes over the offense, and he has a history of relying on the pass. Four of his offenses have averaged over 290 passing yards. Daunte Culpepper threw 39 touchdowns in a season with Linehan, and Matthew Stafford tossed 41. Not that Romo is headed for those kind of heights, but 270 yards and 30 touchdowns look attainable.

Romo should pass downfield a lot more often. That makes sense, given the size and speed they have at wide receiver. The team went too dink-and-dunk last year, averaging only 11.3 yards per completion. The big plays should return this season, probably making Romo an upper-level passer.

All of this, of course, is contingent on Romo holding up physically. He's 34, he's missed games in three of his last six seasons, and he's undergone back surgeries two offseasons in a row. He should be fine, but Romo isn't as likely as other quarterbacks to last all 16 games.

Kyle Orton is a serviceable backup if they can talk him into play; he might retire, leaving them with Brandon Weeden. Orton threw for 358 yards and 2 TDs in his only start last year.

RUNNING BACK. DeMarco Murray is one of the most talented backs in the league. But he's also injury prone, inconsistent and underused, making him a mediocre prospect.

For durability, Murray is down with the likes of Darren McFadden. He's missed 11 games in three years, and dating back to his time at Oklahoma, he's missed games in all but one of his last eight seasons. He can't be counted on to play 16 games.

Murray was productive last year, averaging 5.2 yards per carry, but he was also underused. He ran for under 50 yards in over a third of his games. He also traditionally hasn't been a great scorer. He scored 10 TDs last year, but in the previous two seasons, he scored only 6 TDs in the 18 games he started.

Scott Linehan is taking over the offense, but won't try to turn Murray into a workhorse. None of Linehan's last 10 offenses have ranked in the top 10 in rushing. Only one of those offenses, in fact,



ANDREW WEBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Dez Bryant was the league's busiest receiver around the end zone last year, with 9 touchdowns inside the 5.

even ranked in the top 15. Linehan's last two offenses have run for 17 and 15 touchdowns, but his previous five averaged only 8.4.

Murray should be used more as a pass catcher. He doesn't have particularly good hands, but he's averaged 24 receiving yards per game over the last three years. With his run-catch ability, Murray should squeeze into the top 10 at his position – if he can stay healthy.

Lance Dunbar appears to be their 2nd-best back. If not for injuries, he would have played a lot more last year. They had him queued up for a change-of-pace role, but he was hurt off and on with foot, hamstring and knee injuries. He averaged 5.0 yards per carry but finished the season with only 30 attempts.

Linehan has set up rotations before, so Dunbar might run for 400 yards and catch 30 passes. But at 5-foot-8 and 191 pounds, he's small enough that the Cowboys might be hesitant to ever give him more than about a dozen touches per game (even if Murray gets hurt).

Joseph Randle might wind up with the No. 2 job, but he was a flop as a rookie, averaging only 3.0 yards per carry. Maybe he shows up vastly improved; Dunbar got a lot better in his second season. But Randle is iffy enough that he might even lose out to Ryan Williams, the injury plagued former second-round pick who got dumped by the Cardinals.

RECEIVER. The Cowboys have put Scott Linehan in charge of their offense. Based on the way he's operated in the past, this is probably good news for Dez Bryant and bad news for Jason Witten.

Bryant is one of the top receiving talents in the league. Linehan has worked with similar receivers in the past; and he's always made an effort to get the ball in their hands. Calvin Johnson and Randy

Moss had five seasons with at least a dozen touchdowns for Linehan, and Chris Chambers and Torry Holt also were double-digit scorers.

The Cowboys didn't get Bryant downfield often enough last year; he averaged only 13.3 per catch. That will change. Calvin Johnson averaged over 16 yards per catch in each of the last three years in Detroit, and Bryant has similar ability. Something along the lines of 85 catches, 1,300 yards and a dozen touchdowns looks likely.

We're leery of Witten. He's caught over 90 passes three times in the past five years, but he's starting to slow down. He's 32, and he dipped to only 73 receptions last year. Witten caught 8 TDs last year but historically hasn't been a big factor in the red zone (just 5 and 3 TDs in the previous two seasons).

Now Linehan has his fingers on the offense, and he traditionally hasn't emphasized tight ends. Brandon Pettigrew had seasons with 83 and 71 catches and Jermaine Wiggins caught 71, but nobody else has caught more than 60. Granted, Linehan has never worked with a tight end this good, but Witten looks more likely to drop down to 65 catches rather than moving back up to 80-plus.

Gavin Escobar caught only 9 passes as a rookie, but he'll play a lot more. He's a talented pass catcher; they drafted him in the second round. And Linehan likes using two tight ends; in Detroit, Tony Scheffler and Joseph Fauria were used in the red zone and Scheffler had two seasons with 40-plus catches. Escobar's real value, however, won't kick in until Witten retires.

Terrance Williams is a breakout candidate. He was effective as a rookie; they didn't use him much because they were trying to stick with Miles Austin (released in the offseason). In the seven games that Austin was injured, Williams caught 24 passes for 438 yards, with 5 TDs and a 2-point conversion.

Williams won't be as busy as Bryant, of course, but he'll see more single coverage and has the wheels to hit the big plays over the top. He averaged 16.7 yards per catch last year, 5th-best among players with at least 40 catches. Now that he's a starter, a run at 1,000 yards and 8 TDs is possible.

Cole Beasley should be the slot receiver, and he was effective last year. He caught 72 percent of the passes thrown his way, tying for tops among wide receivers. But at 5-foot-8 and 177 pounds, Beasley is awfully small; he's not capable of running any routes downfield.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Tony Romo	535	342	63.9	3828	31	10	35	96.7
Cowboys	586	375	64.0	4226	33	12	35	95.7
Opponents	623	403	64.7	4835	33	15	34	96.0
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
DeMarco Murray	217	1121	5.2	9	663	4	897	2
Joseph Randle	54	164	3.0	2	--	--	--	--
Cowboys	336	1507	4.5	12	1265	8	1807	5
Opponents	437	2056	4.7	17	2003	17	1585	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Dez Bryant	93	1233	13.3	79	13	92	1382	12
Jason Witten	73	851	11.7	34	8	110	1039	3
Terrance Williams	44	736	16.7	82	5	--	--	--
Cole Beasley	39	368	9.4	23	2	15	128	0
DeMarco Murray	53	350	6.6	22	1	35	251	0
Miles Austin	24	244	10.2	20	0	66	943	6
Cowboys	375	4226	11.3	82	33	434	4992	29
Opponents	403	4835	12.0	87	33	320	3895	22
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Dan Bailey	47-47	28-30	10-10	6-7	131	124	135	--
Opponents	47-48	25-29	6-7	2-4	123	131	113	124

Should one of the starters get hurt, the Cowboys will leave Beasley in the slot and promote Dwayne Harris.

KICKER. Dan Bailey doesn't have a bazooka leg, but he does everything else well. He's made 57 of 61 field goals the last two years, and all but one of the misses was from 50-plus yards. That's why the Cowboys signed him to a seven-year contract extension worth \$22.5 million in the offseason.

While that accuracy is an asset, however, the elite kickers tend to come from the best teams. Of the 18 kickers to score at least 145 points in a season, all but two came from teams winning at least 11 games. The Cowboys fail in that regard; they haven't finished above .500 since 2009. Look for above-average production from Bailey, but he shouldn't be a difference-maker.

	NYG 36-31	at K.C. 16-17	St.L. 31-7	at S.D. 21-30	Den. 48-51	Wash. 31-16	at Phil. 17-3	at Det. 30-31	Minn. 27-23	at N.O. 17-49	at NYG 24-21	Oak. 31-24	at Chi. 28-45	G.B. 36-37	at Wash. 24-23	Phil. 22-24
QB Romo (run stats)	36-49-1-263 2-(-1) 15,4	30-42-0-298 2-3 2	17-24-0-210 0-0 2,24,24	27-37-0-246 1-15 5,34	25-36-1-506 1-7 2-pt,10,2,2,82,4	18-30-1-170 0-0 15	28-47-2-317 4-2 9	14-30-0-206 3-6 5,50,60	34-51-1-337 1-8 26,7	10-24-0-128 0-0 21	23-38-1-234 3-1 20,2	23-32-0-225 1-(-1) 4	11-20-0-104 1-(-1) 2,10,9	29-48-2-358 0-0 25,5	17-27-1-226 1-(-1) 10,14	DNP back
QB Orton (run stats)	0-0-0-0 0-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	3-5-0-40 0-0	DNP	DNP	30-46-2-358 1-8 17,32
RB Murray (rec stats)	20-86 8-39	12-25 5-49	26-175 3-28 2	14-70 5-22	12-43 1-5 4	7-29 2-21 4	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	4-32 6-19	16-89 1-6 7	14-86 3-40	17-63 5-39 2,4,7	18-46 2-9	18-134 4-19 1	22-96 3-15 10 rec,3	17-48 5-39
RB Randle (rec stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-0 0-0	0-0 0-0	11-17 2-15 1	19-65 3-28	14-26 3-18	1-3 0-0	0-0 0-0	0-0 0-0	0-0 0-0	9-53 0-0 1	0-0 0-0	0-0 0-0	0-0 0-0
WR Bryant	4-22	9-141 2	4-38 2	6-81 5,34	6-141 2,2	5-36	8-110	3-72 5,50	6-64	1-44	9-86	7-61 4	2-12 2	11-153 5	4-73 14	8-99 32
WR T.Williams	2-32	3-28	0-0	7-71	4-151 82,2-pt	2-27 15	6-71 9	2-64 60	2-33	1-21 21	1-10	3-23	2-36	4-46	4-84	1-39
WR Beasley	DNP	DNP	1-7	3-16	4-47 4	4-44	6-53	1-8	6-68	1-18	2-13	3-19	2-20 9	3-19	2-29	1-7
TE Witten	8-70 15,4	3-12	5-67	5-43	7-121 10	3-27	4-48	2-15	8-102 26	2-27	4-37 20,2	3-53	1-10 10	4-71 25	2-13	12-135
K Bailey	30,38,45	51,30,53	19 miss: 35	miss: 56	43,48	30	38	53,53,44	41,44	37	35	19	-	47,23,50,43,50	25	44,43,36
Others	49 INT return 27 fumble ret	Escobar 24 rec D.Harris 24 rec		52 INT ret	D.Harris 86 punt return		Tanner 1 run	fumble recovery D.Harris 7 rec		50 fumble ret		Escobar 17 rec				

Denver Broncos

When scouting a team coming off a historic season, you must properly discount for the certainty that those kind of statistics won't show up again. We've seen 20 offenses over the years score over 55 touchdowns, and 75 percent of those groups declined by at least a dozen touchdowns. Only three managed to edge forward by a touchdown or two.

The Broncos come off the greatest season of all – 71 touchdowns – setting themselves up to probably decline more than any other offense this year. They've lost Eric Decker and Knowshon Moreno, and they slipped at the end of last year anyway. They averaged 10 fewer points in the second half of the season, and then scored only 24, 26 and 8 points in their three playoff games.

Scheduling will be a factor. Denver's opponents went a combined 146-110 last year, allowing a league-low 21.5 points per game. The Broncos benefited last year from playing against the soft defenses of the NFC East. This year they're getting the NFC West. On our board, we're projecting the offense will score only 52 touchdowns – still a top-3 offense, but nowhere close to last year.

QUARTERBACK. With Peyton Manning, it's all about picking the right number. Fifty-five touchdowns is well out of range, but he'll definitely be one of the most productive passers in the league.

While those 2013 numbers are a big distraction, keep in mind that Manning wasn't as productive late in the year. He didn't throw more than 2 TDs in any of the three playoff games. He threw only one touchdown in a win against Kansas City, and he barely completed half of his passes at New England.

In his first nine games Manning averaged 361 passing yards and tossed 33 TDs. In his final 10 games (including the playoffs) he averaged 314 yards, with 27 TDs – still great numbers, but they project out to only 5,024 yards and 43 touchdowns over a 16-game season.

Manning might even drop another notch or two. Eric Decker and Knowshon Moreno are gone; those aren't colossal losses, but those guys were productive veterans. Keep in mind that Manning in his other season with Denver threw only 37 touchdowns and averaged only 292 passing yards.

In our eyes, about 38 touchdowns and 305 yards per game look like the appropriate projections. At worst, that forecast will be 10 percent too low, but it also might prove to be 10 percent too high. It's in the right window.

Manning has undergone four neck surgeries, so those who draft him have to hope he doesn't take that one good hit that ends his career. They can take comfort in him being the best ever at getting the ball out of his hands. Defenses sacked him only 18 times last year, even though the offensive line was plagued by injuries.

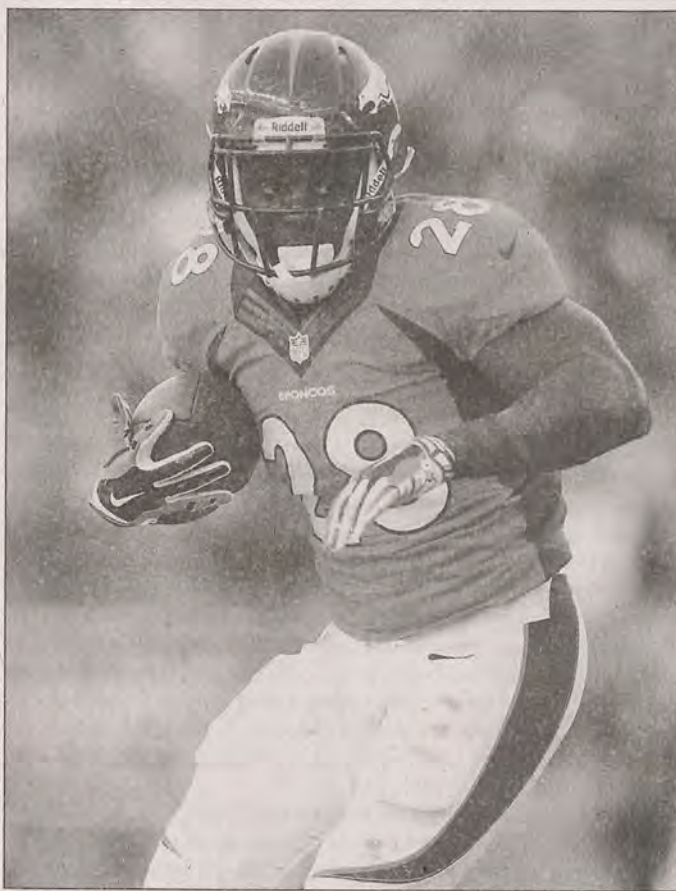
Backup Brock Osweiler is looking more error apparent than heir apparent. Including the preseason, he couldn't move the offense last year. He tends to throw short, safe passes, and he seems to lock up under pressure – including August, he was sacked 11 times in 85 pass plays last year.

RUNNING BACK. Everything's in place for Montee Ball to emerge as a top-10 back, but first let's see how things transpire in August. He's not as well-rounded or proven as Knowshon Moreno (who signed with Miami).

Most notably, can they get Ball polished up enough as a pass catcher and in protection? With Peyton Manning at quarterback, they can't afford to feature a running back who can't block. Ball struggled picking up blitzes last year, but they were giving him more change-of-pace work at the end of the year – he ran for 48 yards per game in the second half of the season.

Moreno was one of the top half-dozen pass-catching backs last year, with 60 receptions. Ball doesn't have the same kind of hands or route-running ability, so they may look to replace him on third downs.

Fumbles also are a concern. Ball handled the ball only 140 times last year but lost 3 fumbles. Moreno had over twice as many touches



Denver is putting Montee Ball in the starting lineup, making him a candidate to score a dozen touchdowns.

and fumbled only once. A couple of fumbles early, and the Broncos could sour on their second-year back.

As a runner, Ball looks like an upgrade. He runs more decisively, and with an extra 17 pounds, he packs a little more punch. Moreno averaged 4.3 yards per carry last year, while Ball was up at 4.7. Both backs, of course, benefited from playing against defenses far more concerned with Denver's passing attack.

Ball isn't a special back (he wouldn't necessarily start, for example, on any other team) so the Broncos could look to give another back 30-40 percent of the workload. That's what they did last year with Moreno. We think the ceiling is about 1,100 rushing yards and 10 TDs, with maybe another 300 yards receiving – that's if everything goes right.

Ronnie Hillman spent most of last year in the doghouse. He fumbled 3 times in the preseason, and they gave up on him for good after another pair of fumbles in the regular season – he didn't even play in nine of their final 12 games. He could be a fumble away from the waiver wire.

But Hillman is only 22, and he would be a dynamic change-of-pace if they can solve the ball security issue. He weighs only 190 pounds, but they haven't had a back with that kind of speed since Clinton Portis. Hillman was their No. 1 tailback last summer until he started fumbling.

C.J. Anderson is the only other contender for that No. 2 role. He made the team as an undrafted free agent last year and got a few carries. At 224 pounds, he's bigger than their other runners. But he's not fast enough, and he might be even worse than Ball on passing downs.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

RECEIVER. The Broncos should pass for 10-20 fewer touchdowns and maybe 20-40 fewer passing yards per game. Take that as a sure sign that their pass catchers will tend to see their numbers go down.

Eric Decker signed with the Jets. They don't have another receiver capable of filling that kind of role. They signed Emmanuel Sanders, but at 5-foot-11 and 180 pounds, he's a lot smaller. That works against him on vertical routes and in the red zone. Sanders probably will make a big impact only if Wes Welker gets hurt, putting him in a slot receiver role.

Second-rounder Cody Latimer might eventually be better than Decker. He's almost as big and he's about two tenths faster. But receivers tend to need time to develop. They'll probably rotate in Latimer for a limited number of routes, and it will be 2015 that they commit to him as a full-time player. Decker hardly played in his first season.

Demaryius Thomas is the clear No. 1 receiver. With his size (6-3, 229) he's a matchup nightmare, and he's also got the speed to score touchdowns from long range. In two years with Peyton Manning, he's averaged 93 catches for 1,432 yards and 12 TDs.

Welker might lead the team in catches and touchdowns. He's their main dumpoff option, and he was their busiest receiver around the goal line – they create picks by running him through traffic. Including the playoffs, Welker in 16 games caught 91 passes, 11 touchdowns and a 2-point conversion – very similar to Thomas.

But Welker doesn't have the size or speed to make any big plays. He's working strictly the short patterns, so he averaged only 60 yards per game last season. At 33, he's also more likely than other receivers to miss time with an injury. He suffered multiple concussions last season, sitting out the final three games.

The Broncos also have Andre Caldwell, and maybe he fits in somewhere, but if they had any confidence in him, they probably wouldn't have both signed Sanders (including \$6 million guaranteed) and traded up to select Latimer. Caldwell was a slight disappointment in the three games he filled in for Welker last year, with 11 catches for 113 yards and 2 TDs.

Julius Thomas comes off a monster season, and he should still be getting better. He played only one season of college football, and it was at tiny Portland State. In his first season as a pro starter, Thomas caught 72 percent of the passes thrown his way – 3rd-best among starters.

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Peyton Manning	659	450	68.3	5477	55	10	18	115.1
Opponents	613	357	58.2	4360	29	17	41	84.5
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Knowshon Moreno	241	1038	4.3	10	525	4	179	0
Montee Ball	120	559	4.7	4	--	--	--	--
Ronnie Hillman	55	218	4.0	1	330	1	--	--
Broncos	461	1873	4.1	16	1832	12	2632	11
Opponents	420	1626	3.9	15	1458	5	2021	11
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Demaryius Thomas	92	1430	15.5	78	14	94	1434	10
Eric Decker	87	1288	14.8	61	11	85	1064	13
Julius Thomas	65	788	12.1	74	12	--	--	--
Wes Welker	73	778	10.7	33	10	118	1354	6
Knowshon Moreno	60	548	9.1	35	3	21	167	0
Andre Caldwell	16	200	12.5	36	3	1	18	0
Broncos	461	5572	12.1	78	55	402	4671	37
Opponents	357	4360	12.2	82	29	321	3558	25
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Matt Prater	75-75	25-26	8-8	6-7	150	133	87	76
Opponents	44-44	23-26	6-8	2-2	113	95	136	139

Denver probably will utilize Thomas more around the end zone. They threw him only 7 passes inside the 10 last year, and he caught 6 of them. Like the other two main receivers in this offense (Welker and Demaryius Thomas), he's in a contract year.

KICKER. Matt Prater benefits more than you might realize from playing at altitude. At home the last two years, 85 percent of his kickoffs have been touchbacks. That drops to 51 percent on the road, which is below the league average – he's actually got a pretty run-of-the-mill leg.

Nevertheless, Prater will play half of his games at Mile High, and that puts him in the mix to finish among the league leaders in long field goals. He's 12 of 15 from 50-plus the last three years. Coupled with one of the league's best offenses, he's also been the league's 2nd-highest scoring kicker over the last two years.

	Balt. 49-27	at NYG 41-23	Oak. 37-21	Phil. 52-20	at Dall. 51-48	Jac. 35-19	at Ind. 33-39	Wash. 45-21	at S.D. 28-20	K.C. 27-17	at N.E. 31-34	at K.C. 35-28	Tenn. 51-28	S.D. 20-27	at Hou. 37-13	at Oak. 34-14
QB Manning (run stats)	27-42-0-462 2-(-2) 24,23,5,2,38,36,78	30-43-0-307 3-(-3) 2,11	32-37-0-374 3-(-2) 2,12,13	28-34-0-327 0-0 6,4,1,15	33-42-1-414 4-(-8) 1 run,4,9,2,2	28-42-1-295 5-(-7) 3,20	29-49-1-386 1-(-1) 17,12,31	30-44-3-354 4-(-3) 6,1,35,35	25-36-0-330 2-(-1) 11,7,34,74	24-40-0-323 1-0 9	19-36-1-150 1-0 10,11	24-40-0-323 3-(-3) 41,37,15,1,3	39-59-0-397 3-(-1) 1,8,4,20	27-41-1-289 0-0 15,5	32-51-0-400 0-0 36,10,20,25	25-28-0-266 0-0 3,7,63,5
RB Moreno (rec stats)	9-28 3-37	13-93 3-14 20,25	12-39 1-6	12-78 1-13 4	19-93 5-57 1	15-42 7-62 1,8,3	15-40 3-9 1	13-43 6-89 35 rec	15-65 8-79	27-79 0-0	37-224 1-6 2	15-18 4-72 3 rec	14-78 6-31 1	8-19 5-36	11-76 2-26	6-23 5-41 7 rec
RB Ball (rec stats)	8-24 0-0	12-14 2-28	11-61 0-0	8-24 0-0	1-1 0-0	3-15 0-0	0-0 0-0	12-38 0-0 4	5-20 0-0	8-25 3-16 1,8	7-40 3-17	13-117 1-4	15-77 3-10 5	3-(-1) 5-49	4-32 0-0	10-72 3-22
WR D.Thomas	5-161 26,78	5-52	10-94	9-86 1,15	5-57	3-78	4-82 31	7-75 35	7-108 11,7,34	5-121	4-41 11	3-106	7-88 4	4-45	8-123 36	6-113 83,5
WR Decker	2-32	9-87	8-133 2	5-88	5-87 2	5-50	8-150 17	4-42	3-52	5-71	1-5	8-174 41,37,15,1	8-117 20	2-42	10-131 10,20	4-27 3
WR Welker	9-67 5,2	3-39 2	7-84 12	7-76 6,4	5-49 2	6-63 20	7-96	6-81 6	3-21	8-72	4-31	3-38	5-61 1	DNP concussion	DNP concussion	DNP concussion
TE D.Thomas	5-110 24,23	6-47 11	3-37 13	4-43	9-122 4,9	4-22 3	5-41 12	3-29	3-96 74	3-43 9	DNP knee	DNP knee	5-35 8	4-49	6-78 25	5-36
K Prater	-	42,47	53,41,40	53	48,50,28	-	31,47	19	-	54,36 miss: 52	27	-	25,64,19	32,42	32,25,44	34,54
Others	Caldwell 28 rec Holliday 81 punt return		Hillman 1 run 105 KO ret 17 blocked punt					Dreesen 1 rec 75 INT return		60 fumble ret Tamme 10 rec			Caldwell 15 rec Caldwell 5 rec			

Detroit Lions

The Lions are switching coaches, but their offense won't necessarily be much different. Jim Caldwell is going with Joe Lombardi as his offensive coordinator, and he's spent the last seven years as an assistant with the Saints – an offense that's been pretty similar to Detroit's.

New Orleans rotates its running backs (and features them heavily as pass catchers), but that isn't anything new for the Lions. And Detroit is the one team in the league that's attempted even more passes than the Saints over the last three years.

Lombardi's to-do list should include making the offense more efficient. The Lions rank only 13th in scoring over the last two years, even though only three teams have gained more yards. And turnovers need to be reduced; Detroit is a league-worst minus-28 in takeaway-giveaway ratio over the last two years.

QUARTERBACK. The Lions have to figure out how to get Matthew Stafford dialed in. The arm talent is there, but he's making too many mistakes, and the team isn't winning. He's won only 39 percent of his games, which among those with at least two years worth of starts comes in ahead of only Ryan Fitzpatrick, Chad Henne and Sam Bradford.

Stafford has a strong arm and throws a pretty long ball, but that might be the problem – too often he's trying to gun it deep rather than settling for shorter, safer completions. He's thrown 36 interceptions in the last two years. He also fumbled a league-high 12 times last year.

Two years ago, in his breakout season, Stafford completed over 63 percent of his passes. He dropped to under 59 percent last year, his lowest since his rookie season. And the decline came despite good pass protection; only the Broncos allowed fewer sacks.

Offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi, it's clear, has his work cut out for him. Tweaking is necessary, it seems, with play-calling, offensive design and decision making. In particular, Stafford needs to be more efficient around the end zone. Inside the 10 the last two years, he's completed only 38 of 86 passes, with 26 scores and 3 interceptions.

But whatever changes Lombardi has in mind, Stafford should be one of the top half-dozen passers. The Lions have Calvin Johnson, and now they've added Golden Tate and Eric Ebron. No chance of them suddenly trying to go with a ground-and-pound offense.

Stafford averaged 291 passing yards last year, and that's probably close to his basement. He averaged over 310 the previous two years. Including runs, he's averaged exactly 2 TDs per game over the last three years. Assuming he plays all 16 games, we're figuring it will be a surprise if he finishes with fewer than 28 touchdowns, and he may zip up into the mid-30s.

Dan Orlovsky should be the backup. Just hope he doesn't play. In the 12 games he's started as a pro (including seven for the 0-16 Lions in 2008), Orlovsky has averaged only 216 passing yards, with 14 TDs and 10 interceptions.

RUNNING BACK. Detroit is set with Reggie Bush and Joique Bell. They put up 2,709 combined yards last year, the most of any combo in the league. They're both capable of being featured runners, and they're both outstanding in the passing game.

All of which is music to the ears of new coordinator Joe Lombardi. In New Orleans, he worked with running backs who rotated extensively and caught tons of passes – the Saints and Lions were the only teams whose running backs had over 1,000 receiving yards last year. Bush and Bell give him the same kind of one-two punch.

Bush should play more. He's a much better runner now than he was early in his career with the Saints – not as explosive, but smarter about not freelancing into negative plays. He's averaged 1,026 rushing yards per season the last three years with Miami and Detroit, averaging 4.6 yards per carry – 8th-best among runners with at least 500 carries.

It's his receiving production that makes Bush a solid fantasy option. He might catch 60-plus balls, putting him in play for 1,500-



ANDREW WEBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Matthew Stafford has put up statistics but not wins the last two seasons – just 11-21 as a starter.

plus total yards. Durability is the main concern; he's played 16 games only once in the last seven years.

Bell might handle the ball more than any backup tailback in the league. He averaged 68 yards last year in the 14 games Bush started – 37 rushing and 31 receiving. He's a bigger back, but he's surprisingly good in the passing game. Over the last two years, only two running backs (Darren Sproles and Danny Woodhead) have more receiving yards.

At 220 pounds, Bell should be their goal-line back. He'll probably outscore Bush. Inside the 2 last year, Bell had 10 carries and 7 TDs. Bush had only 4 carries, with 2 TDs, in that part of the field.

It's when you factor in Bush's durability (or lack of it) that Bell gets intriguing. Bush has missed 23 of his last 112 games. As a starter, Bell would be one of the more heavily used all-around backs in the league. He went for 132 and 127 total yards in his two starts last year, with 2 TDs.

Detroit should need some other back at some point. Theo Riddick was the No. 3 at the end of last season, but let's see what Mikel Leshoure looks like in August. He spent all of last season in the doghouse, but the Lions have a new coaching staff now. Leshoure is a former second-round pick, he's only 24, and he seemed to be on equal footing with Riddick at the May OTAs.

RECEIVER. There's Calvin Johnson; he might be the best receiver on the planet. And there's the running backs; they will catch a ton of balls. And we're left wondering whether there's room on this roster for another productive pass catcher.

No doubt the Lions are hoping Golden Tate will make a nice

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

impact; they made him the 2nd-highest paid of the free agent receivers in the offseason. But while Tate made a handful of big plays for the Seahawks, he's been pretty ordinary for most of his career. He was only their 4th-most impactful wide receiver in the playoffs, catching 8 passes for 61 yards (no touchdowns) in those three games.

Tate has averaged only 51 yards per game the last two years, with 12 TDs in 31 games. The Lions pass more than Seattle, but with so many other guys involved, Tate's numbers might not be any better. He'll handle the ball on some end-arounds, and he threw a touchdown in Seattle, but tough to see him getting past 800 yards and 5-6 TDs.

The Lions selected Eric Ebron with the 10th pick of the draft, the highest for any tight end in the last eight years, and optimists will conclude that with Detroit going to more of a Saints-style offense, that would make Ebron the team's Jimmy Graham. Ebron played a Graham-type role at North Carolina last year, lining up away from the line of scrimmage.

But Ebron isn't Graham. He's 2 inches shorter, slower, and his hands aren't as big. He hasn't shown the same ability to dominate against defensive backs in the red zone. He caught only 3 of his team's 28 TD passes last year; the previous season he caught 4 of 29. We will pass on Ebron.

The Lions still have Brandon Pettigrew, of course, and even signed him to a new contract in the offseason. He should serve as more of a traditional in-line tight end. But with limited speed and receiving ability, he's not going to be a factor in the passing game – at best he sneaks up to 30 catches and 3 TDs.

Johnson, of course, is the lead dog. He's averaged 112 receiving yards per game over the last three years – 22 more than anybody else in the league. Maybe there are some growing pains in the new offense, but he looks like a pretty safe bet for 1,500-plus yards and 11-plus touchdowns.

The Lions also have 6-foot-7 Joseph Fauria, who caught 7 TDs last year as a red zone specialist, but that was a concept cooked up by the coaching staff that got fired. Detroit has Ebron now, and it will be hard to find room on the roster for two tight ends who don't block.

Detroit's other receivers shouldn't play much. Ryan Broyles has some slot ability, but he's blown out both knees and his Achilles in the last three years. Kris Durham was a starter last year, but he caught only 45 percent of the passes thrown his way and is too similar to

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Matthew Stafford	634	371	58.5	4650	29	19	23	84.2
Opponents	572	338	59.1	4199	24	15	33	85.0
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Reggie Bush	223	1006	4.5	4	986	6	1086	6
Joiqee Bell	166	650	3.9	8	414	3	--	--
Lions	445	1792	4.0	15	1613	17	1523	9
Opponents	377	1596	4.2	10	1889	13	2050	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Calvin Johnson	84	1492	17.8	87	12	122	1964	5
Joiqee Bell	53	547	10.3	37	0	52	485	0
Reggie Bush	54	506	9.4	77	3	35	292	2
Kris Durham	38	490	12.9	40	2	8	125	1
Nate Burleson	39	461	11.8	47	1	27	240	2
Brandon Pettigrew	41	416	10.1	31	2	59	567	3
Joseph Fauria	18	207	11.5	25	7	--	--	--
Lions	371	4650	12.5	87	29	445	5139	22
Opponents	338	4199	12.4	85	24	346	3806	26
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
David Akers	42-43	19-24	4-7	3-3	99	131	166	143
Lions	42-43	19-24	4-7	3-3	99	134	126	110
Opponents	29-29	37-40	11-12	9-10	140	139	131	99

Ebron. Jeremy Ross ranked in the top 5 last year in both punt and kickoff returns, which should land him a roster spot.

KICKER. Only three teams scored fewer kicking points than the Lions last year, but a big upward move is possible. Detroit has plenty of offensive weapons and plays half its games at climate-controlled Ford Field. The Lions ranked 12th and 6th in scoring at this position the previous two seasons, averaging 130 points.

Seventh-rounder Nate Freese is the frontrunner to replace David Akers (who wasn't re-signed). He has below-average range, but hit 38 of 40 field goals his last two years at Boston College. They've also got Giorgio Tavecchio and John Potter, but they don't look like NFL material. Potter has the strongest leg but hasn't been accurate enough.

	Minn. 34-24	at Ariz. 21-25	at Wash. 27-20	Chi. 40-32	at G.B. 9-22	at Clev. 31-17	Cin. 24-27	Dall. 31-30	at Chi. 21-19	at Pitt. 27-37	T.B. 21-24	G.B. 40-10	at Phil. 20-34	Balt. 16-18	NYG 20-23	at Minn. 13-14
QB Stafford (run stats)	28-43-1-357 6-(-3) 77,1	24-36-0-278 2-1 72,3	25-42-1-385 1-2 11,5	23-35-1-242 5-8 1 run, 2	25-40-0-262 1-(-1) 13	25-43-1-248 2-6 1,23,10,18	28-51-0-357 0-0 3,27,50	33-48-2-488 3-12 1 run, 2	18-35-1-219 2-(-1) 5,4,14	19-46-1-362 3-24 79,19	26-46-4-297 2-6 5,10,18	22-35-2-330 1-8 5,20,20	10-25-0-151 6-(-1) 2-pt pass	18-34-3-235 2-9 14	25-42-2-222 1-(-1) 2-pt pass	22-33-0-217 0-0 19
RB Bush (rec stats)	21-90 4-101 77 rec	9-25 3-44	DNP knee	18-139 4-34 37	13-44 4-25	17-78 5-57 18 rec	20-50 3-44	21-92 8-30 1	14-105 3-8	12-31 2-23	15-83 4-17	20-117 5-65 1	DNP calf	17-86 2-15 14	12-34 2-10	14-32 5-33 19 rec
RB Bell (rec stats)	6-25 5-67 2,1	8-31 5-41	20-63 4-69 12	7-12 4-30	5-21 4-30	7-25 1-8	5-27 3-29	4-32 1-22 1	10-41 0-0	9-49 3-48 2	6-15 1-0	19-94 3-34 1	23-69 4-58 2-pt rec, 2	9-24 1-23	20-91 10-63 1	8-31 4-25
WR C. Johnson	4-37	6-116 72,3	7-115 11	4-44 2	DNP knee	3-25	9-155 27,50	14-329 2	6-83 4,14	6-179 79,19	7-115	6-101 20	3-52	6-98	3-43	DNP knee
WR Burleson	6-78	7-45	6-116	DNP forearm	DNP forearm	DNP forearm	DNP forearm	DNP forearm	DNP forearm	DNP forearm	7-77 5	0-0	2-18	4-51	2-12	5-64
WR Durham	1-11	0-0	1-33	3-58	3-30 13	8-83	5-41	4-54	1-5 5	3-42	3-46	3-68	0-0	1-5	2-14	0-0
TE Pettigrew	2-6	3-32	0-0	7-54	4-59	4-36	3-7 3	3-31	5-70	3-37	3-32 18	1-6	1-23	2-23	DNP ankle	IR ankle
TE Fauria	3-27 1	0-0	1-5 5	0-0	0-0	3-34 1,23,10	1-15	0-0	1-25	1-14	1-10 10	0-0	0-0	1-14 14	3-43 2-pt rec	3-20
K Akers	33,42	- miss: 47,47	32,28	23,31,41,43	53	51	36 miss: 34	20	- miss: 45	35,19	-	27 miss: 31	- miss: XP	40	37	25,53
Others		66 INT return		4 fumble ret												

safety, Ross 5 rec
Ogletree 20 rec

58 punt ret
98 KO ret

safety
Riddick 2 run

Green Bay Packers

In fantasy football, it pays to latch onto the right teams. Those who loaded up on Broncos and Eagles last year had big seasons. And the Packers look like they will be one of those teams in 2014 – a contender to lead the league in scoring.

Green Bay would have been one of those teams last year, but Aaron Rodgers missed half of the season. They averaged a below-average 21.5 points when he was on the sidelines, but they averaged 30.6 in his eight full games – a clear notch ahead of every offense in the league short of the Broncos.

The Packers also spread the ball around less than other teams, which only makes their players more appealing. They're one of the few teams that potentially could have a top-5 quarterback, top-5 tailback and a pair of top-10 wide receivers.

QUARTERBACK. After missing half of last season, Aaron Rodgers' value might be a little depressed in fantasy drafts, but it shouldn't be. He's very much in the mix to be the most productive of all quarterbacks.

Since the Packers traded Brett Favre, in fact, Rodgers has been the most consistent producer in the league. In all five of his seasons prior to last year, he ranked either 1st or 2nd in stat production (that's after numbers are adjusted to account missed games).

Rodgers' passing stats were just a little off his usual clip last year. In his eight full games he averaged a career-high 314 yards, but he was on pace to finish the year with 34 TD passes. That's great for most quarterbacks, but he threw 45 and 39 the previous two seasons.

The Packers have a good supporting cast, so there's no reason Rodgers can't make another run at 40 touchdowns. Conservatively, he looks like a safe choice for 35. He's got good receivers and a good offensive line, and the Packers also now have a running game that can keep defenses honest.

Rodgers wasn't good enough around the goal line last year. Inside the 10, he went only 13 of 26, with 7 touchdowns and a league-worst 6 sacks. Among quarterbacks with at least 20 plays, only three were worse. But that looks like an outlier stat. Over the previous two seasons, Rodgers was the best quarterback in that part of the field, putting the ball in the end zone on 42 of 85 plays.

The only flaw we see with Rodgers' game is that he's lost a little mobility – or he's just looking to run less. In his first four years, he ran for an average of 4 TDs per season. Now he's run for only 2 TDs in his last 25 games. But with less running, Rodgers is taking fewer hits than he did in the past, making it less likely he'll be sidelined with an injury. He could make a lot of fantasy leaguers happy this year.

Matt Flynn will be the backup. The Seahawks, Raiders and Bills all got rid of him because of his woefully inadequate arm, but Flynn knows this offense. Matched up against a lesser opponent, he's capable of serviceable numbers. He's started only six career games for the Packers, and he's thrown at least 3 TDs in half of them.

RUNNING BACK. Eddie Lacy looks like the real deal. He ran for 1,178 yards and 11 touchdowns as a rookie, adding a new dimension to the offense and powering Green Bay into the playoffs.

But he's not their only back. They've also got James Starks, and he played well enough last year that he'll probably also be worked in for a healthy chunk of the action. That could be enough to stop Lacy from handling the ball quite as often as guys like Adrian Peterson and LeSean McCoy.

Starks was actually more effective last year than Lacy. He averaged 5.5 yards per attempt, consistently busting big plays off the bench. Starks had 6 runs of 20-plus yards. Lacy had 195 more carries but had only 3 of those runs.

We're not suggesting Starks will challenge for the starting job. He doesn't have the same size or tackle-breaking ability. Lacy creates a lot of yards on his own. But Starks should be good if he gets any fill-in starts, and they'll mix him in. In the final 10 games last year, Starks averaged 31 rushing and 5 receiving yards, with 3 TDs.

The Packers also have Johnathan Franklin. He was a disappointment for most of his rookie season, but he showed some potential at Cincinnati,



Jordy Nelson averaged 101 yards when Aaron Rodgers was healthy last year, with 7 TDs in those eight games.

coming off the bench to run for 103 yards. Now that he's been around for a year and has a better idea of what he's doing, they might work him in some.

Realistically, though, this is Lacy's gig. He was awfully impressive as a rookie, with his ability to grind out tough yards. He was the league's most effective goal-line runner, scoring on 8 of 9 carries inside the 2. John Kuhn will score a couple of touchdowns on change-up carries, but Lacy should score about 70 percent of this team's rushing touchdowns.

Lacy also appears to be their best back on passing downs. Starks is a poor receiver, and Lacy is way ahead of Franklin in pass protection. Lacy caught 80 percent of the passes thrown his way last year, the best by any rookie running back in the last five years.

With other backs chipping in, it will be hard for Lacy to be the most productive running back in the league, but he's in the mix to finish in the top 4. Probably the biggest concern is durability. He initiates a lot of contact, and it's tough for those kind of runners to last all 16 games.

RECEIVER. Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb should put up huge numbers. They're the two big cogs in this group of receivers, and the Packers almost certainly will have a top-5 passing offense.

If not for Aaron Rodgers breaking his collarbone last year, Nelson might have finished last year as the 3rd-best receiver in the entire league. In Rodgers' eight full games, Nelson averaged 101 yards and caught 7 TDs. In the eight other games, Nelson averaged 38 fewer yards and caught only one touchdown.

As a big, fast receiver, Nelson is Green Bay's best receiver on longer pass routes. He's also very good around the end zone. Inside the 10 over

the last three years, he's caught 13 of 19 passes, including 11 scores. With James Jones gone, Nelson definitely should be the No. 1 target around the goal line.

Cobb should be almost as good. He'll probably catch more passes. He was on pace for 103 receptions when he broke his fibula in Week 6 last season. He's also run for 210 yards in the last two years (even though he missed over half of last season). Cobb has scored 3 TDs on kick returns, but they're pulling him off special teams to give him a better chance to stay healthy.

While Cobb will get plenty of touches, however, he's used primarily as a slot receiver. He runs mostly underneath routes, so he doesn't tend to make as many of the big plays downfield. He also hasn't been used much around the end zone, though that should change. They've thrown him only 9 passes inside the 10 in the last three years, and he's caught 6 of those balls.

Jarrett Boykin looks like he'll be an acceptable replacement for James Jones. He produced at a 1,000-yard pace in the 10 games he started last year. He seems to have the requisite size, hands and route-running ability, and the Packers are a three-receiver team. "I can't say enough about Boykin," says Mike McCarthy.

But Boykin benefited last year from playing when Cobb was injured. When Cobb returned for the final two games, Boykin caught a grand total of 2 passes for 8 yards. The Packers also used a late second-round pick on Davante Adams; once he's coached up, he'll move past Boykin (probably in 2015).

The Packers are mulling their options at tight end. They'd like to re-sign Jermichael Finley if doctors are willing to give his neck the OK. If healthy, he'll probably be a top-10 tight end. If not, they'll probably start Andrew Quarless, but he's primarily a blocker. Quarless averaged only 28 yards in his 10 games last year, with 2 TDs.

Green Bay has a host of young tight ends, but they all need developing. Brandon Bostick looks the part, but he's still making the conversion from being a wide receiver at tiny Newberry (South Carolina). Third-rounder Richard Rodgers has good receiving skills but hasn't lined up much as an in-line tight end. Colt Lyerla is loaded with talent but wasn't even drafted after a host of off-field problems at Oregon.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Aaron Rodgers	290	193	66.6	2536	17	6	21	104.9
Matt Flynn	200	124	62.0	1392	8	5	24	85.7
Packers	570	366	64.2	4538	25	16	45	91.7
Opponents	539	332	61.6	4194	30	11	44	95.9
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Eddie Lacy	284	1178	4.1	11	--	--	--	--
James Starks	89	493	5.5	3	255	1	578	1
Packers	459	2136	4.7	17	1702	9	1558	12
Opponents	432	2000	4.6	16	1896	12	1789	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Jordy Nelson	85	1314	15.5	76	8	49	745	7
James Jones	59	817	13.8	83	3	64	784	14
Jarrett Boykin	49	681	13.9	52	3	5	27	0
Randall Cobb	31	433	14.0	48	4	80	954	8
Andrew Quarless	32	312	9.8	22	2	--	--	--
Jermichael Finley	25	300	12.0	52	3	61	667	2
Eddie Lacy	35	257	7.3	34	0	--	--	--
Packers	366	4538	12.4	83	25	374	4342	40
Opponents	332	4194	12.6	67	30	313	3801	24
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Mason Crosby	42-42	33-37	6-8	5-7	141	113	140	112
Opponents	48-49	24-30	7-8	3-6	121	112	101	96

KICKER. Mason Crosby grades out as only average in accuracy. He hit 33 of 37 last year, but the previous season he missed 12 field goals, the 2nd-most by any kicker in the last 10 years. He's never been reliable on longer kicks. He's hit only 48 percent of his career attempts from 50-plus, 4th-lowest among the 30 active kickers who've attempted at least 10.

But Crosby works with one of the best offenses in the league, and that puts him in play as a possible top-level scorer. Three times in the last five years, Green Bay has ranked 4th in kicking points. Crosby was leading the league in scoring at the halfway point of last season (but was a below-average scorer in the eight games Aaron Rodgers missed).

	at S.F. 28-34	Wash. 38-20	at Cin. 30-34	Det. 22-9	at Balt. 19-17	Clev. 31-13	at Minn. 44-31	Chi. 20-27	Phil. 13-27	at NYG 13-27	Minn. 26-26	at Det. 10-40	Atl. 22-21	at Dall. 37-36	Pitt. 31-38	at Chi. 33-28
QB Rodgers (run stats)	21-37-1-333 2-13 5,12,8	34-42-0-480 3-(-3) 35,14,3,15	26-43-2-244 3-24 7	20-30-0-274 5-8 83	17-32-0-1315 5-21 64	25-36-0-260 4-12 10,1,20	24-29-0-285 6-31 11,76	1-2-0-27 1-9	DNP collarbone	DNP collarbone	DNP collarbone	DNP collarbone	DNP collarbone	DNP collarbone	DNP collarbone	25-39-2-318 1-5 7,48
QB Flynn (run stats)	with Oakland	with Oakland	with Oakland	with Oakland	unrestricted free agent	with Buffalo	with Buffalo	with Buffalo	unrestricted free agent	DNP	21-36-0-218 4-24 6	10-20-1-139 2-4	24-32-1-258 6-28 2	26-39-1-299 3-(-3) 13,11,3,3	21-39-1-232 2-8 5	DNP
RB Lacy (rec stats)	14-41 1-31 2	1-10 0-0	DNP concussion	23-99 1-(-2)	23-120 1-5	22-82 5-26 1	29-94 4-18 1	22-150 0-0 1	24-73 2-11	14-27 2-21 4	25-110 6-48 3	10-16 2-23	20-65 3-25 1	21-141 4-30 1	15-84 2-6 14,2	21-66 2-15 6
RB Starks (rec stats)	0-0 1-8	20-132 4-36 32	14-55 0-0	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	7-57 0-0 25	6-40 0-0 32	4-5 1-9	2-(-1) 0-0	3-37 1-(-5)	2-2 0-0	7-19 0-0	3-12 1-11 11 rec	10-47 1-23	11-88 1-7
WR Nelson	7-130 8	3-66 14,15	8-93	5-82	4-113 64	5-42 1	7-123 11,76	4-67	6-56	8-117	4-58	2-14	4-85	5-61 13	3-46	10-161
WR J. Jones	0-0	11-178	4-34 7	4-127 83	1-10	DNP knee	DNP knee	1-17	4-44	2-55	7-80	3-79	4-19	3-49 3	9-84	6-41
WR Boykin	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-43	8-103 20	5-89	1-15	8-112	6-91	5-60 6	0-0	2-23	6-83	5-54 5	2-8 15 fumble ret
TE Finley	5-56 12	6-65 3	0-0	6-32	3-75	5-72 10	DNP neck	DNP neck	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve
K Crosby	-	28	41,19,26	25,52,31,42,45	45,31,50,31 miss: 44	26 miss: 52	30,20,45	30,23	26,35 miss: 53,42	24,57	27,20	54	40,33,25	57	22	33,27
Others	Cobb 5 rec	Cobb 35 rec	24 fumble ret Franklin 2 run			93 punt return			Bostick 22 from Tolzien		Tolzien 6 run	1 fumble ret	Quarless 2 rec	Quarless 3 rec	Kuhn 1 run	Cobb 7 rec Cobb 48 rec

Houston Texans

Houston won't be this year's version of Kansas City, going from 2-14 to the playoffs, but a move up to six or seven wins is possible. The Texans have some talent. Things just snowballed last year when they were hit by injuries and remarkably bad quarterback play. Houston had Seattle beat in September until Matt Schaub dished up a Pick Six with under 3 minutes left.

While the Texans ranked next-to-last in scoring last year, they still have a lot of the same pieces that helped them rank in the top 10 in scoring in each of the four previous seasons. They just need to get everyone healthy. Houston projects to play the 3rd-easiest schedule in the league, which should help.

Bill O'Brien is installing a new system, but he seems to know his stuff. He was a longtime assistant with the Patriots, and he put together balanced, productive offenses in his two years at Penn State. If everything falls into place, Houston might not be too far below average in scoring.

QUARTERBACK. The Texans didn't use a high draft pick on a quarterback, and that's probably good for this year. Instead of forcing a youngster into the lineup, they're going with Ryan Fitzpatrick. He's no Pro Bowler, but he's at least shown some ability to move an offense.

In each of Fitzpatrick's last two seasons in Buffalo, his offenses scored 36 touchdowns. And he had the Titans slightly above that clip last year, with 21 touchdowns in the nine games he started. Here he's got better talent around him, and this might be a passer-friendly system.

More so than the vast majority of quarterbacks, Fitzpatrick isn't afraid to fail. Rather than throwing the ball away or checking it down, his tendency is to put the ball up and see what happens (even when receivers are covered). This results in way too many interceptions, but Fitzpatrick has also thrown 59 touchdowns in his last 41 games. Among quarterbacks who've started at least half of the time over the last three years, only 13 have averaged more touchdowns.

Fitzpatrick completed an above-average 62 percent last year, and only three quarterbacks had higher passer ratings on third downs. He's also a willing scrambler; he's averaged 16 rushing yards per game over the last two years, with 3 TDs in 25 starts. None of this has resulted in much on-field success (Fitzpatrick is only 27-49-1 as a starter) but he has spot-start value for fantasy purposes.

Tom Savage probably won't start more than a couple of games. He's started only one of the last four years while transferring between three different schools. He completed 61 percent and averaged 228 passing yards last year at Pitt, with 21 TDs and 9 interceptions in 13 games.

Savage has an NFL-caliber arm, but if other teams thought he could be developed into a starter, he wouldn't have lasted until the fourth round. Of the last 20 quarterbacks selected in the fourth, only three ever developed into fantasy-relevant quarterbacks – Aaron Brooks, Kyle Orton and David Garrard.

There's also Case Keenum. He has some scrambling ability but doesn't seem to have enough accuracy or arm strength. He completed only 54 percent last year, worst among quarterbacks who started for at least half of the year.

RUNNING BACK. There's risk with Arian Foster. He missed half of last year after undergoing back surgery. But there's also plenty of upside; if he stays healthy, he could be the most undervalued of the franchise running backs.

Foster has taken a beating in recent years, and he's not the same back who piled up 2,220 combined yards in 2010. But it seems too early to say with any certainty that he doesn't have another big season left in him. He turns 28 in late August, and he's been an NFL starter for only four years.

There's no getting around that Foster was a disappointment last year, but he was performing just fine until he injured his hamstring at Kansas City in Week 7. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry, which was more than either of his previous two seasons. In his six full games, he averaged 89 rushing and 31 receiving yards – on pace for nearly 2,000 for the season.



MATTHEW EMMONS/USA TODAY SPORTS

Houston's running game fell apart last year after Arian Foster got hurt, averaging 42 fewer yards per game.

Foster's value and talent became more apparent after his injury. Houston averaged 42 fewer rushing yards in the eight games that he missed. The injury potential can't be ignored, of course, but he's worth a roll of the dice at some point, and our leaning is he'll be selected too late in most leagues.

Ben Tate signed with Cleveland, but the Texans might not lose anything with Andre Brown in that backup role. Brown isn't as fast, but he runs hard. He's definitely better on passing downs (as both a receiver and in pass protection). Brown has missed time with broken bones in his legs two years in a row, but Tate also hasn't been durable.

Brown averaged only 3.5 yards per carry last year, but we're giving him a mulligan – New York's offensive line simply fell apart. He played very well the previous year, averaging 5.3 yards per attempt and running for 113 yards and 2 TDs in the one game they featured him. Given Foster's injury history, Brown should be one of the first No. 2 tailbacks selected.

The Texans have a host of other young runners, but none looks likely to make a run at winning the backup job. Sixth-rounder Alfred Blue weighs 223 pounds, but he didn't play much at Louisiana State last year, buried behind Jeremy Hill. Dennis Johnson and Jonathan Grimes both got a few carries last year, but neither has much speed or talent; originally, neither was even drafted.

RECEIVER. Andre Johnson went over 100 catches five times under Gary Kubiak, so it's a little nerve-racking that the Texans are going to a new offense. But our expectation is that he'll continue to be heavily featured. At 33, he's still got some solid years left, and this offense looks like a good fit for him.

Look at how Bill O'Brien used Allen Robinson at Penn State. At 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds, Robinson is a big, Johnson-like receiver, and he caught 97 passes last year – 72 more than any other player on the Nittany Lions' roster. We'll take that as evidence that Johnson isn't going to suddenly drop down to 80 receptions.

Furthermore, a new offense could help get Johnson in the end zone more often. With Kubiak and Matt Schaub, too often Johnson was an afterthought in the red zone. He's scored only 4 and 5 touchdowns the last two years. Rebooting the offense could help lift him to 8 touchdowns or more. We like Johnson.

DeAndre Hopkins comes off a credible rookie season (52 catches for 802 yards). Per pass play, he was a yard more effective than Johnson. He'll see a lot more single coverage, so maybe he scoots up to about 1,000 yards.

But Hopkins doesn't have elite speed (he ran a 4.53 back at the combine), so it's hard for him to consistently get open deep. He caught only 2 TDs as a rookie, and he got worse as the year wore on – just 15 catches in his final seven games. The temptation with young receivers is to assume they'll grow and blossom, but Hopkins is probably just as likely to never move beyond being just an adequate No. 2 receiver.

Houston will utilize multiple tight ends. Garrett Graham caught 49 passes and 5 TDs last year, but he's a little short and a little light to be used as a traditional in-line tight end. Graham says he's been told he'll be utilized as an H-back, so we're thinking of him as a poor man's Dennis Pitta. Ryan Fitzpatrick looked for Delanie Walker a lot last year in Tennessee.

The Texans' regular tight end probably will be more of a blocker, so C.J. Fiedorowicz should win that job. He's not much of a pass catcher and they took him with the first pick of the third round, so they must like his blocking. Ryan Griffin played a lot in that spot in the second half of last year, but he's 10 pounds lighter and probably will be a backup.

Houston doesn't have any other relevant wide receivers. Keshawn Martin was their slot guy last year, but he caught only 22 passes. The Texans signed journeyman Mike Thomas; he could challenge for that role (but wouldn't be any better). DeVier Posey should also play some, but he caught only 15 passes last season, with no touchdowns.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Matt Schaub	358	219	61.2	2310	10	14	21	73.0
Case Keenum	253	137	54.2	1760	9	6	19	78.2
Texans	633	371	58.6	4183	19	22	42	74.0
Opponents	484	287	59.3	3310	29	7	32	93.9
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Ben Tate	181	771	4.3	4	279	2	942	4
Arian Foster	121	542	4.5	1	1424	15	1224	10
Texans	414	1743	4.2	7	2123	19	2448	18
Opponents	454	1958	4.3	11	1560	5	1536	8
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Andre Johnson	109	1407	12.9	62	5	112	1598	4
DeAndre Hopkins	52	802	15.4	66	2	--	--	--
Garrett Graham	49	545	11.1	42	5	28	263	3
Keshawn Martin	22	253	11.5	32	2	10	85	1
Owen Daniels	24	252	10.5	28	3	62	716	6
Ben Tate	34	140	4.1	10	0	11	49	0
Texans	371	4183	11.3	66	19	354	4046	22
Opponents	287	3310	11.5	64	29	308	3881	29
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Randy Bullock	26-26	26-35	12-17	1-5	104	0	--	--
Texans	26-26	26-35	12-17	1-5	104	138	135	124
Opponents	46-46	30-35	11-14	4-6	136	101	112	113

KICKER. At best, Randy Bullock will be a middle-of-the-pack kicker. Houston's offense generated 9 more field goal attempts than touchdowns last year, which is something. But they've got a new coaching staff and a new offense this year, and Bullock is erratic enough that he might drop right out of the league.

Bullock almost got waived last year. Against Tennessee, he went 0 for 5 on field goals (including a block nullified by an offside and a miss erased by a timeout). He rebounded down the stretch, hitting his last 12 field goals, but he might not have the ice-water veins needed to convert pressure kicks. At Texas A&M, he hit only 70 percent in the two seasons prior to winning the Lou Groza Award.

	at S.D. 31-28	Tenn. 30-24(ot)	at Balt. 9-30	Sea. 20-23	at S.F. 3-34	St.L. 13-38	at K.C. 16-17	Ind. 24-27	at Ariz. 24-27	Oak. 23-28	Jac. 6-13	N.E. 31-34	at Jac. 20-27	at Ind. 3-25	Den. 13-37	at Ten. 10-16
QB Schaub (run stats)	34-45-1-346 0-0 1,9,7	26-48-2-298 0-0 1,12,3	25-35-1-194 0-0	31-49-2-355 1-5 31,5	19-35-3-173 0-0	15-21-0-186 0-0	DNP ankle/foot	DNP	DNP	12-25-0-155 0-0	DNP	DNP	17-29-1-198 1-7 5	DNP	18-37-2-176 1-5 15	22-34-2-229 2-7
QB Keenum (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	15-25-0-271 3-10 29	20-34-0-350 3-26 62,41,5	22-43-0-201 2-13 7,2,5	13-24-1-170 0-0 42	18-34-1-169 1-2	15-30-1-272 3-6 5 run	16-29-1-259 1-13 8	18-34-2-168 1-2	DNP thumb	DNP thumb
RB Foster (rec stats)	18-57 6-33	19-79 1-6 2-p rt run, 1	12-54 1-(-2)	27-102 6-69 5 rec	21-98 4-20	20-141 4-57	4-11 0-0	0-0 0-0	DNP back	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve
RB Tate (rec stats)	9-55 2-7	9-93 3-8	9-36 3-7	7-44 1-1	7-28 2-12	10-12 3-16 1	15-50 2-5	22-81 1-(-2)	15-56 3-8	19-88 4-29	7-1 5-26	22-102 0-0 8,20,10	14-53 2-3	16-72 3-20	injured reserve	injured reserve
WR A. Johnson	12-146	8-76	5-36	9-110	3-39	7-88	4-89	9-229 62,41,5	5-37 7,5	10-116	2-36	8-121	13-154	4-18	4-63	6-49
WR Hopkins	5-66	7-117 3	6-60	2-27	2-23	3-47	3-76 29	3-54	6-69	1-7	1-8	2-77	3-76	3-52	1-8	4-35
TE Daniels	5-67 1,9	2-24 12	5-29	6-72	6-60	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve	injured reserve
TE Graham	4-27 7	3-30 1	0-0	5-69 31	3-15	2-25	3-38	4-46	2-18	7-136 42	5-32	3-36	8-73 5	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	injured reserve
K Bullock	41 miss: 51	- miss: 50,50,46	27,29,47	22,42	41 miss: 45	20,35	48,21,47	43 miss: 49,43,55	48 miss: 40	51,26,30	49,20	43	34,31	49	45,35	19
Others	18 INT return	safety						Griffin 2 rec	87 punt ret				Martin 8 rec		Martin 15 rec	Grimes 3 run

Indianapolis Colts

The Colts look like the class of the AFC South – as certain as anyone to win their division. They'll be helped by what projects to be the league's easiest schedule. Their opponents went 110-146 last year, allowing almost 25 points per game.

But for fantasy purposes, Indianapolis looks surprisingly mediocre. It will rotate its running backs, and there's no one receiver who stands out as being the best. The Colts might not have a top-20 player at either of those positions, and they don't have a can't-miss superstar at quarterback or tight end either.

The Colts might move up into the top 10 offensively. They tied for 14th in yards last year, while scoring 38 touchdowns (right at the league average). But in typical fantasy drafts, nobody on this roster will be selected with one of the first 30 picks.

QUARTERBACK. Andrew Luck is developing nicely. He's gone 11-5 in each of his first two years, and the Colts haven't had any second thoughts about selecting him No. 1 overall.

But it doesn't look likely that Luck will move up into the Brees-Rodgers echelon this year. Right now, he looks a lot more like Cam Newton – a middle-of-the-pack passer who increases his value by running. Luck has averaged 20 rushing yards per game as a pro, with 9 TDs in 32 games.

In today's game, to hang with the best of the best, one needs to have a chance of averaging 300 yards and maybe putting up 35 touchdowns. Luck isn't at that level. He's thrown 23 TDs in each of his first two seasons, and the Colts averaged only 247 passing yards last year.

The Colts should open up their offense some. Luck is getting more experienced, and his receivers are better. It seemed like they were trying to protect him at times by relying more on the run. He actually passed for 34 more yards per game as a rookie.

But it's a long process moving up from being a good quarterback to one of the greats. Luck completed only 60 percent of his passes last year and averaged 6.7 yards per attempt – bottom-10 numbers. He was a below-average passer inside the 10, completing 19 of 37 passes, with 8 TDs, four 2-point conversions and 4 sacks.

We must also factor in that Luck is more likely to get hurt than other quarterbacks. He's a big solid dude, but he holds onto the ball too long. The Colts have allowed 225 knock-downs and sacks over the last two years, 22 more than any other team. That doesn't include Luck's 125 running plays. Top-10 for Luck, but probably not top 5.

For fantasy purposes, Matt Hasselbeck's only value would be as a spot starter in a juicy matchup. He averaged 226 passing yards as a starter the previous two years in Tennessee, with 23 TDs in 21 games.

RUNNING BACK. The Colts won't have a big-time running back. They don't run the ball particularly well, and they'll also split the workload between at least two backs.

This might sound strange, given that they're holding Trent Richardson, the highest drafted running back of the last eight years. But the reality is setting in that the Browns knew exactly what they were doing when they gave up on the No. 3 pick of the 2012 draft. He's got some size and power, but he doesn't seem to have the necessary vision or elusiveness to be a franchise runner.

Richardson had a couple of highlight runs with Cleveland, but he averaged only 3.5 yards per attempt there. He averaged only 2.9 yards for the Colts. They used three other tailbacks, and they all averaged at least 4.5. Late in the year, Indianapolis finally demoted him into a backup role, making Donald Brown their starter.

Indianapolis isn't giving up on Richardson just yet. It gave up a first rounder for him, and two years ago, everyone thought this was the league's next great back. The Colts will want to chase that dream. And maybe he'll be more comfortable now that he's had an offseason to better learn the offense.



ZACH BOLLINGER/CON SMI

T.Y. Hilton turned into T.Y. Holiday Inn too often last year, kept out of the end zone in 15 of 18 games.

But Richardson at best will be the lead runner in a committee backfield, and the Colts don't run the ball particularly well or often. Setting aside quarterback scrambles, Indianapolis hasn't ranked higher than 25th in rushing three years in a row. And Andrew Luck has scored over a third of the team's rushing touchdowns himself the last two years. We'll pass on Richardson.

Vick Ballard might be the team's best back. He played well as a rookie, especially late in the season – he averaged 87 rushing yards in his last five games. He was their opening day starter last year (only to get hurt).

But Ballard is coming off reconstructive knee surgery, and he doesn't have special size or speed. Hard to envision them asking him to be used in a heavy-duty role. In 13 career starts, Ballard averages 64 rushing and 12 receiving yards, with 3 TDs in those games.

The Colts re-signed Ahmad Bradshaw, and he also could be their best back. For a smaller back, he runs deceptively hard. With the Giants, he had a couple of 1,000-yard seasons and won a pair of Super Bowl rings, and he's younger than you might think – only 28.

But Bradshaw can't stay healthy. He's been plagued by foot and ankle injuries for years and he missed almost all of last year with a neck injury. No way will they ask him to carry more than half of the load, and he's also the worst of these tailbacks on passing downs.

RECEIVER. With Andrew Luck entering his third year, you would think Indianapolis would have an elite pass catcher or two, but that's not the case. The Colts put up below-average passing numbers last year, and they've got a lot of different guys vying for balls – nobody on this team is a safe choice to catch 7 TDs.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Andrew Luck	570	343	60.2	3822	23	9	32	87.0
Opponents	536	324	60.4	3959	21	15	42	84.6
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Trent Richardson	188	563	3.0	3	950	11	--	--
Donald Brown	102	537	5.3	6	417	1	645	5
Andrew Luck	63	377	6.0	4	255	5	--	--
Colts	409	1743	4.3	15	1671	11	1594	8
Opponents	448	2002	4.5	14	2200	14	2303	19
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
T.Y. Hilton	82	1083	13.2	73	5	50	861	7
Coby Fleener	52	608	11.7	44	4	26	281	2
Reggie Wayne	38	503	13.2	35	2	106	1355	5
Trent Richardson	35	316	9.0	24	1	51	367	1
D. Heyward-Bey	29	309	10.7	27	1	41	606	5
Griff Whalen	24	259	10.8	25	2	--	--	--
Donald Brown	27	214	7.9	33	2	9	93	0
Colts	350	3952	11.3	73	23	339	4374	23
Opponents	324	3959	12.2	81	21	334	3977	23
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Adam Vinatieri	34-34	35-40	15-17	4-6	139	115	93	129
Opponents	37-37	23-30	7-12	4-5	106	135	136	134

KICKER. At 42, Adam Vinatieri is nearing the end of the road. He's finished below-average in accuracy two years in a row, and he doesn't have special range (they don't even use him on kickoffs anymore). But Vinatieri is accurate enough, and he's paired with a kicker-friendly offense. Only two teams attempted more field goals last year, helping Vinatieri finish with 139 points.

Pat McAfee, who handles punts and kickoffs, has told the team he wants the job when Vinatieri retires, but that's unlikely. One of the reasons kickers are so accurate nowadays is that teams spend more time practicing and perfecting snaps and holds, and that would be harder with the punter also kicking. The Falcons were the last team to attempt using one player to handle both jobs (in 2006) but Michael Koenen hit only 2 of 8 field goals in two games.

T.Y. Hilton will have some big games. He was one of the stars of the postseason, with 327 yards and 2 TDs in two games. He's scored 8 TDs from 40-plus yards in his first 35 games as a pro.

But Hilton isn't even certain to be a full-time player. Maybe because he's small (5-9, 178) or perhaps because he also returns punts, they used him off the bench for the first third of last year. He won't be a big part of their red-zone offense, which played a role in him scoring in only 3 of 18 games last year.

Reggie Wayne is their most knowledgeable receiver and has a nice rapport with Luck; they hooked up 106 times two years ago. But the Colts are deeper now, and Wayne is coming off reconstructive knee surgery. He's also 35. Something along the lines of 60 catches, 800 yards and 6 TDs is probably his ceiling.

Hakeem Nicks has tailed off the last two years; he seems to have lost a step, with only one touchdown in his last 27 games. The Colts hope he can re-emerge, but this is the same organization that signed Darrius Heyward-Bey last year. Let's see if he's even on the team in November.

Third-rounder Donte Moncrief is like a young Andre Johnson – a 220-pounder who runs a 4.40. They'll probably rotate him in some as an outside receiver, hoping for some big plays. But the Colts are overloaded at receiver, so it could be a year before he carves out a significant role.

The Colts have other young receivers. Griffin Whalen could be their slot guy; he caught 22 passes and 2 TDs in the final five games last year. DaRick Rogers is a big, Nicks-type talent; he went for 107 yards and 2 TDs in the loss at Cincinnati late last year. Similarly, LaVon Brazill caught 2 TDs in the playoff loss at Foxborough. But none of those guys are guaranteed to even make the team.

We're lukewarm on Coby Fleener. He's a former second-rounder and played at Stanford with Luck, which sounds nice, but it simply hasn't happened. In two years, he's scored only 6 TDs and he's caught only 58 percent of the passes thrown his way – lowest for all regular starting tight ends.

Perhaps Fleener punches out about 50 catches and 5 TDs, but we don't see him becoming a difference maker. We're not sure he'll be any better than their other young tight end. Dwayne Allen was better two years ago but suffered a season-ending hip injury last year after scoring a touchdown in the first game.

	Oak. 21-17	Mia. 20-24	at S.F. 27-7	at Jac. 37-3	Sea. 34-28	at S.D. 9-19	Den. 39-33	at Hou. 27-24	St.L. 8-38	at Tenn. 30-27	at Ariz. 11-40	Tenn. 22-14	at Cin. 28-42	Hou. 25-3	at K.C. 23-7	Jac. 30-10
QB Luck (run stats)	18-23-0-178 6-38 19 run,12,20	25-43-1-321 4-38 3	17-26-0-159 4-24 6 run	21-35-1-257 2-26 31,5	16-29-0-229 4-9 2-pt,73,29	18-30-1-202 4-19 4-19	21-38-0-228 4-29 10 run,11,20,8	18-40-0-271 0-0 10,58,9	29-47-3-353 4-17 2-pt,13	23-36-0-232 9-31 11 run	20-39-1-163 2-31 2-pt,17	17-32-1-200 5-42 2-32	29-46-0-326 2-32 69,2,19,29	19-32-1-180 5-29 14,9	26-37-0-241 6-5 33	26-37-0-282 2-7 7
RB Brown (rec stats)	0-0 0-0	7-30 0-0	3-25 0-0	3-65 2-11	6-37 3	3-15 2-19	11-23 3-42	6-49 0-0	2-(-1) 5-64 13 rec	14-30 1-14 6,11	2-1 1-(-2)	14-54 2-10 4	4-11 4-18	5-38 0-0	10-79 2-31 33 rec,51	12-31 3-4 1
RB Richardson (rec stats)	13-47 2-30	18-58 5-21	13-35 0-0 1	20-60 1-6 1	18-56 0-0	10-40 1-13	14-37 0-0	8-20 2-33	5-2 3-33	8-22 5-31	7-15 2-11	5-19 0-0	6-20 5-68	19-64 4-38 9 rec	16-43 3-15	8-25 2-17 2
WR Hilton	3-20	6-124	2-13	4-45	5-140 73,29	5-43	2-23	7-121 10,58,9	7-130	5-44	5-38	5-46	2-7	8-78	5-52	11-155
WR Wayne	8-96 12	5-46	4-58	5-100 5	6-65 2-pt rec	5-88	5-50	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
WR Heyward-Bey	3-33	2-10	5-59	3-33	0-0	1-11	4-44 11	1-11	3-30	1-10	3-22 2-pt rec	1-23	2-23	0-0	0-0	0-0
WR Rogers	practice squad	practice squad	DNP	practice squad	practice squad	practice squad	practice squad	practice squad	practice squad	practice squad	practice squad	0-0	6-107 69,2	2-23	4-42	2-20
TE Fleener	1-7 3	4-69 3	2-13	5-77 31	2-15	3-16	5-38 8	3-64	4-33 2-pt rec	8-107	4-55 17	3-50	5-31	0-0	2-8	1-25
K Vinatieri	-	30,38 miss: 52	43,41 miss: 51	22,46,28	41,49	30,50,51	27,52,42	30,35 miss: 42	-	48,30,50	27	37,47,48,45,49	- miss: 44	37,43,40	46,45,30 miss: 34	23,26,39
Others	Allen 20 rec	Bradshaw 1 run	Bradshaw 1 run	41 INT ret	61 blocked field goal return		safety Havili 20 rec						Brazill 19 rec	safety Whalen 14 rec		Whalen 7 rec

Jacksonville Jaguars

The Jaguars hit rock bottom at the halfway point of last season – 0-8 and on pace to become only the second offense in the last 20 years to average under a touchdown per game. They were the bizarro version of the Broncos.

But any time a team is really struggling, it has nowhere to go but up, and that's how it played out in the second half of last season. Gus Bradley and his staff got a better feel for how to utilize their personnel, and the players got more comfortable with the offense. Jacksonville went 4-4 in its final eight games, scoring almost twice as many points.

This isn't unusual. Of teams that have finished either last or next-to-last in scoring in this century, over half of them have scored at least 100 more points the next season. Half of them have made it out of the bottom 10 in scoring. The Jaguars will have a below-average offense, but they should have some viable fantasy options.

QUARTERBACK. When a quarterback is selected early, he's expected to play right away. Of the last 11 chosen in the top 10, only one (Jake Locker) didn't start at least 10 games in his first year. But the Jaguars say their plan is to sit Blake Bortles for all of this season, and that might not be simply offseason hyperbole.

This is the franchise, after all, that just watched Blaine Gabbert implode when they played him extensively as a rookie. And Bortles isn't as polished as most quarterbacks selected at the top of the draft.

Physically, Bortles is another Ben Roethlisberger. He's huge, he's got an above-average arm, and he extends plays with his mobility. He runs well enough that he scored 14 touchdowns on his own in his final two seasons at Central Florida. They used him on some zone-read plays.

But Bortles is far from a finished product. He'll force passes that simply aren't there, and playing with a Roethlisberger style (holding onto the ball) tends to result in sacks and interceptions. Our guess is that Bortles at most will play half of this year, and that he'll take his lumps when he's out there.

Chad Henne has shown some ability to move the offense. He was a lot better than the last top-10 pick the Jaguars made at this position. Henne has averaged 244 passing yards per game the last two years, 79 more than Gabbert (who's now with San Francisco).

While Henne has piled up some yards, however, he hasn't been able to finish drives. He's thrown only 18 TDs in 19 games for Jacksonville. Among active quarterbacks with at least 30 starts, only Tarvaris Jackson averages fewer touchdowns.

Henne's playing style changed last year. Under Mike Mularkey, they had him gunning downfield. Now they've gone to more of a dink-and-dunk system. His completion percentage improved from 54 to 61 percent and his interceptions decreased, but he's not connecting on any big plays. Henne averaged only 10.6 yards per completion last year, 3rd-worst in the league.

Ultimately, it's about winning games and scoring points, and that makes it unlikely that Henne can stay in the starting lineup for the entire season. He's 18-32 as a starter, 2nd-worst among active quarterbacks.

RUNNING BACK. Maurice Jones-Drew signed with Oakland, but the running game should be better without him. They've got a cast of youngsters who might be just as good, and the blocking will be better. Jacksonville averaged 25 more rushing yards per game in the second half of last season.

Toby Gerhart is the back they're counting on, but that looks risky. He didn't play much in Minnesota. He popped a couple of longer runs to average 7.9 yards per carry last year, but he carried the ball only 36 times. He averaged only 3.4 yards per attempt the previous season.

Stuck behind Adrian Peterson, Gerhart has started only five times in four years. He averaged 74 rushing and 20 receiving yards in those games, with 2 TDs. By that crude measure, maybe he's got about 1,500 total yards in him. He's good enough as a receiver and in pass protection to play on third downs.



Cecil Shorts III has big-play ability, but Jacksonville used him on too many short patterns last season.

But Gerhart might not be dynamic enough. He hasn't broken tackles like he did at Stanford, and with 4.6 speed, he could have problems getting outside. We're putting a cautious grade on Gerhart. He's a clear starter and will be given every opportunity to be their main back. We're just not confident he can do it.

Denard Robinson might be used as a change-of-pace option. He was a flop as a rookie, averaging only 3.3 yards per attempt, but he should get more comfortable as he adjusts from being a college quarterback. He's added 15 pounds. But tough to envision Robinson progressing enough that they'd trust him to be their third-down back or handle a heavy-duty role.

Jordan Todman looks more likely to be the regular No. 2 tailback. Like Robinson, he struggled early in his career (the Chargers and Vikings cut him), but he's improved. He averaged 7.7 yards per carry in the preseason last year, and in his only start he ran for 109 yards against Buffalo.

Todman, however, didn't do enough with his other carries last year; he averaged only 2.9 yards per attempt in his other games. He doesn't have a hammerlock on that backup job. The depth chart is fluid enough that even sixth-rounder Storm Johnson is a possibility.

RECEIVER. Justin Blackmon is likely out for the year, and that extinguishes any flickering chance of a Jacksonville receiver putting up big numbers. Not much difference between the receivers who are left.

Blackmon has talent. He's gone over 190 yards in two of his last 11 games. So it might make sense to stash him away on the off chance he gets to play in the second half of the season. But after multiple failed

ANDREW WEBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Chad Henne	503	305	60.6	3241	13	14	38	76.5
Jaguars	592	349	59.0	3751	16	21	50	71.8
Opponents	551	354	64.2	4187	29	11	31	96.5
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
M. Jones-Drew	234	803	3.4	5	414	1	1606	8
Jordan Todman	76	256	3.4	2	8	0	--	--
Jaguars	378	1260	3.3	7	1369	5	1970	9
Opponents	507	2108	4.2	20	2256	19	1667	14
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Cecil Shorts III	66	777	11.8	59	3	55	979	7
Ace Sanders	51	484	9.5	51	1	--	--	--
Mike Brown	32	446	13.9	43	2	--	--	--
Justin Blackmon	29	415	14.3	67	1	64	865	5
Mercedes Lewis	25	359	14.4	41	4	52	540	4
M. Jones-Drew	43	314	7.3	17	0	14	86	1
Clay Harbor	24	292	12.2	31	2	25	186	2
Jaguars	349	3751	10.7	67	16	328	3746	20
Opponents	354	4187	11.8	95	29	341	3960	21
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Josh Scobee	22-23	23-25	4-5	4-5	91	93	93	107
Opponents	53-53	26-29	6-6	1-3	131	154	101	117

drug tests, he's suspended indefinitely. The Jaguars selected two receivers in the second round, indicating they're not counting on him.

Cecil Shorts III should lead the team in receiving, and at times he looks like a No. 1. He was a top-10 receiver during the second half of the 2012 season. But that was a different coaching staff, and he was playing a different role, with more vertical routes (he averaged 17.8 yards per catch). Shorts ran mostly short patterns last year, averaging only 11.8 yards per reception.

Shorts averaged only 60 yards last year, and he's not as effective on the shorter slot-type routes. Inside the 10, he's caught only 5 of 17 passes the last two years. He's also had problems staying healthy. He had multiple concussions last year, ending the season on injured reserve with a groin injury.

Second-rounder Marqise Lee looked like a top-10 pick as a sophomore at Southern Cal, catching 118 passes and 14 TDs. He wasn't the same last year, in part because of a knee injury that kept him out of three games and slowed him for most of the year. But Lee has less-than-ideal size (6-0, 192), and he runs a 4.47. Those aren't the kind of measurables generally associated with difference-maker receivers.

Half the time when a team takes two receivers in the same round, the less-heralded player puts up better numbers, and Allen Robinson could be one of those guys. He runs only 4.57, so separation could be a problem, but he's a big (6-2, 220), physical receiver who can work the middle of the field. He caught 174 passes in his last two seasons at Penn State. He'll probably either start or serve as the No. 3 receiver.

Jacksonville went with Ace Sanders as its No. 3 last year, but he'll probably be phased out. He's tiny (5-7, 178), and he doesn't seem to have enough speed or elusiveness. As a rookie he averaged only 9.5 yards per catch and didn't make an impact on punt returns.

Mercedes Lewis might be an above-average tight end. He's got some ability to get downfield (he averaged 14.4 yards per catch last year), and his height makes him a viable red-zone option. He caught 10 touchdowns back in 2010, and when they started using him late last year, he scored in four straight games. Over the past two years, he's been their most effective pass catcher around the goal line.

In this offense, however, it looks like Lewis will be used primarily

as a blocker. He caught only 25 passes in his final 10 games last season, and the Jaguars have more receiving options now.

KICKER. Josh Scobee is one of the few kickers making over \$3 million per year, and he's worth it. He's a top-5 guy on kickoffs, and his accuracy has really improved. He's helped Jacksonville convert a league-high 91 percent of its field goals over the last three years.

Scobee isn't good enough, however, that's he's able to overcome being stuck in a hopeless situation. Three years in a row, Jacksonville has ranked last in potential kicking points. Maybe the team will be a notch better, but it's tough to envision enough falling into place for Scobee to be a top-15 scorer.

	K.C. 2-28	at Oak. 9-19	at Sea. 17-45	Ind. 3-37	at St.L. 20-34	at Den. 19-35	S.D. 6-24	S.F.(U.K.) 10-42	at Tenn. 29-27	Ariz. 14-27	at Hou. 13-6	at Clev. 32-28	Hou. 27-20	Buff. 20-27	Tenn. 16-20	at Ind. 10-30
QB Henne (run stats)	3-6-0-36 0-0	25-38-0-241 13	18-38-2-235 2-5	DNP	7-13-0-89 1-2 4	27-42-2-303 2-(-3)	23-36-1-318 4-5	29-45-1-228 1-1 29	14-23-2-180 2-(-1)	27-42-2-255 0-0 62	23-32-0-239 3-3	22-40-1-195 0-0 18,20	23-32-0-239 2-4 1,6	21-36-2-237 4-22 12,13	24-34-1-237 1-1 4,7	30-51-1-331 1-0 14
QB Gabbert (run stats)	16-35-2-121 4-16	DNP thumb	DNP thumb	17-32-3-179 2-10	9-19-2-181 3-6 67	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
RB Jones-Drew (rec stats)	15-45 0-0	10-27 1-1	19-43 2-19 2	13-23 1-5	17-70 2-16	20-71 2-3 5	9-37 2-19	19-75 6-47	21-41 4-33 6	14-23 4-12 1	14-84 6-60 1	23-77 2-4 8 pass	14-103 2-20	DNP hamstring	13-45 4-24	13-39 5-51
RB Todman (rec stats)3-20	1-2 0-0	5-7 0-0	2-5 0-0 3	2-4 0-0	3-16 0-0	1-0 0-0	1-8 0-0	0-0 0-0	3-11 1-2 5	2-9 1-(-5)	11-31 1-5	5-31 1-12	7-14 1-21 21 rec	25-109 4-44	6-6 1-5	2-3 1-12
WR Shorts	3-40	8-93	8-143	7-61	5-74 4	0-0	8-80	7-74	2-42	2-22	8-71	6-64 20	2-13 6	DNP groin	IR groin	IR groin
WR Blackmon	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	5-136 67	14-190	6-58	4-31	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension
WR Sanders	3-14	5-64	2-25	4-59	0-0	1-9	DNP concussion	1-11	0-0	8-61	4-61	8-67	3-26 21 pass	2-17 12	4-20	6-50
TE Lewis	DNP calf	DNP calf	DNP calf	0-0	DNP calf	DNP calf	1-31	1-6	3-39	3-23	1-18	3-26 8	2-42 1	4-54 13	4-50 4	3-70
K Scobee	-	27	33	53	48,34	50,30	30,23	38	32,44	-	30,53 miss: 60	44,36,25 miss: 49	40,39	32,55	36 miss: XP	37
Others		Harbor 13 rec				59 INT return		M.Brown 29 rec 21 fumble ret safety		Noble 62 rec		safety Harbor 18 rec			M.Brown 7 rec K.Taylor 14 rec	

Kansas City

Kansas City had one of the most improved offenses in history last year – the first in a 16-game season to score more points than in its previous two seasons combined. Andy Reid somehow managed to help the team go from minus-18 to plus-24 in turnover ratio, and Kansas City went from 2-14 to the playoffs.

But now the team looks ripe for a big decline. It's tough to bank on takeaways, and the schedule is a lot harder; on paper, it's going to move from the top 5 down to the bottom 10. Kansas City also lost 40 percent of its offensive line in free agency, including left tackle Branden Albert.

The offense scored 41 touchdowns last year, but a drop down to about 36 looks awfully likely. One must always be careful to avoid trying to draft last year's stats, and this offense looks like it will be average at best.

QUARTERBACK. More so than any quarterback, Alex Smith is careful with the ball. For winning real-life football games, that's good, but it makes him an average backup at best in typical fantasy leagues.

It's about risk and reward. To complete the big throws at the NFL level requires taking chances: fitting the ball in tight windows, throwing before guys are open and lofting up 50-50 type balls – giving receivers chances to make plays. But Smith tries to stay away from those kind of throws. His mindset tends to be that it's better to punt than to risk a turnover.

That's fine. It's helped him go 30-9-1 over the last three years, 4th-best in the league behind three future Hall of Famers. He's thrown a league-low 17 interceptions in his last 40 games. Couple that style of play with a good running game and a stout defense, and a team makes the playoffs.

But it's not good enough to win in the postseason, and it's not a mindset that helps fantasy teams. Kansas City ranked in the bottom 10 in passing yards last year, and Smith was even worse in his final two years in San Francisco, averaging only 195 yards per game.

Smith threw a credible 23 TDs in 15 games last year, which was slightly above average, and he was playing his best ball at the end of the year. But the offensive line is weaker, and the schedule is a lot harder. Kansas City also lost Dexter McCluster, who caught 53 passes as a dumpoff guy last year.

The logical conclusion, it seems, is that Smith will probably rank in the bottom 10 in passing yards, and he'll probably be below-average in touchdown passes. Maybe he helps himself some as a runner – he ran for 29 yards per game last year – but Smith averaged no more than 15 yards in either of his last two years with San Francisco. He's also scored only 3 TDs on his own in his last 40 games.

Chase Daniel is the backup, and he's more than just a warm body. Kansas City lured him away from New Orleans last year with a three-year deal worth \$10 million. Daniel played reasonably well in his lone start last year. Working without most of the starters in Week 17 at San Diego, he went 21 of 30 for 200 yards, with one touchdown and 59 rushing yards.

RUNNING BACK. Jamaal Charles has no chance of matching the stats he compiled last year. It's not easy putting up 1,980 total yards and 19 TDs, and Kansas City doesn't want him trying to carry that kind of workload anyway.

Having a 199-pound running back handle the ball 329 times, like the team did last year, is asking for trouble, and Andy Reid realizes as much. He says the plan is to spell Charles more often, keeping him fresher, and giving him a better chance of still being around at the end of the season.

Knile Davis, therefore, is the up-and-comer in this backfield. Reid will start giving him 5-10 touches per game, just like he did back in Philadelphia, when he had Correll Buckhalter working behind Brian Westbrook. Davis didn't play much as a rookie, but they started working him in more late in the year; he scored 7 TDs in his last six games. When Charles sat out in Week 17, Davis ran for 81 yards and 2 TDs, and he played most of the playoff loss at Indianapolis, finishing with 100 total yards and 2 TDs.



DENNY MEDLEY/USA TODAY SPORTS

For his career, Jamaal Charles averages 5.6 yards per carry, a half yard more than every other running back.

Not that Davis is even close to being in Charles' league. He averaged only 3.5 yards per carry, and he's not very good on passing downs. But running backs get hurt, and should Davis get some fill-in starts, he'll probably be a top-10 back when he's in there, given the way Kansas City uses its tailbacks as both runners and pass catchers.

Even in a decreased role, Charles should be one of the most productive handful of running backs in the league. He doesn't need as many carries as typical backs because he's maybe the most explosive runner in the league. For his career he's averaged 5.6 yards per carry, a half yard more than every other active running back.

Charles also is a big part of the passing game. He led the team last year with 70 catches. No running back in the league had more receiving yards (693) or caught more touchdowns (7). Granted he was helped along by an outlier game at Oakland, where he caught 8 passes for 195 yards and 4 TDs, but he's one of the few backs with a good chance of reaching 500 receiving yards.

Ultimately, it comes down to durability. If Charles stays healthy, he'll almost certainly be a top-5 back, putting up something like 1,700 yards and 14 TDs. Charles missed almost all of the 2011 season with a knee injury, but he's only 27 and otherwise has been remarkably durable, with only two missed games in his other five seasons combined.

Dexter McCluster caught 53 passes and scored on 2 punt returns last year, and fourth-rounder DeAnthony Thomas should fill that role. He's about the same size and even faster. In three years at Oregon, Thomas scored on 5 kick returns, caught 113 passes and 15 touchdowns and ran for 1,890 yards and 26 touchdowns.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

RECEIVER. It's probably best to steer clear of all Kansas City pass catchers. The team will have a lesser passing game, and the production will tend to get spread around anyway. Other than Jamaal Charles, nobody else on this team last year reached even 60 catches or 6 TDs.

You would figure Dwayne Bowe would be better. He's a talented guy; he caught 81 passes for 1,159 yards three years ago. But Alex Smith isn't comfortable throwing downfield unless he's confident the receiver is wide open, and that only happens so many times per game. Bowe averaged only 11.8 yards per catch, and he caught only 55 percent of the balls thrown his way, making him the 3rd-least effective receiver among the 37 with at least 100 targets.

Bowe of course had a monster game in the playoffs, going for 150 yards at Indianapolis. But that was one game. He didn't have any more than 70 yards in any of his regular-season games, and he improved only nominally even when Smith was putting up better numbers late in the year. Bowe caught 32 passes and 3 TDs in his final eight regular-season games, so we're figuring his ceiling is probably about 65-70 catches for 850 yards and 7 TDs – that's if everything goes right.

Donnie Avery was the other starter last year, but he has no value. He has good speed, but his hands and route-running ability are nothing special, and Smith isn't much of a long-ball thrower anyway. Avery caught only 2 TDs all year, and he finished with under 40 yards in all but three games. He won't be a factor, and he's starting only until they can find someone else to plug into that role.

A.J. Jenkins or Junior Hemingway might push into the starting lineup at some point. Jenkins is a former first-round pick, while Hemingway might be too much like Bowe – a bigger, slower possession-type guy. Realistically, neither should make much of an impact.

Anthony Fasano should start at tight end. He won't be a factor as a receiver; he's averaged only 25 yards per game over the last three years. But Fasano has some skill at sneaking free in the red zone (probably because defenses tend to view him as a blocker). He's caught 13 TDs in his last 40 games – about one every three weeks.

Travis Kelce missed almost all of his rookie season with a knee injury, but he's healthy now. He could be heavily utilized as a second

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Alex Smith	508	308	60.6	3313	23	7	39	89.1
Kansas City	546	333	61.0	3561	24	8	41	88.6
Opponents	592	334	56.4	4271	25	21	47	78.5
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Jamaal Charles	259	1287	5.0	12	1509	5	83	0
Alex Smith	76	431	5.7	1	132	0	179	2
Knile Davis	70	242	3.5	4	--	--	--	--
Kansas City	442	2056	4.7	17	2395	9	1893	5
Opponents	428	1923	4.5	9	2171	11	2112	14
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Jamaal Charles	70	693	9.9	71	7	35	236	1
Dwayne Bowe	57	673	11.8	34	5	59	801	3
Donnie Avery	40	596	14.9	51	2	60	781	3
Dexter McCluster	53	511	9.6	43	2	52	452	1
Sean McGrath	26	302	11.6	25	2	--	--	--
Anthony Fasano	23	200	8.7	20	3	41	332	5
Kansas City	333	3561	10.7	71	24	273	2937	8
Opponents	334	4271	12.8	77	25	279	3694	29
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Ryan Succop	52-52	22-28	6-8	1-4	118	101	92	102
Opponents	33-33	22-28	5-7	4-6	99	143	106	98

tight end – he's got a lot more pass-catching ability than Fasano. But Kelce won't show up on our draft board until we see him catching balls with the first-unit offense in the preseason games.

KICKER. With kickers, wins and points tend to go hand-in-hand. They score more when the team around them is playing well. And with that in mind, we don't expect Ryan Succop will be as good this year – the team should decline.

Consider how last year played out. When Kansas City opened the season 9-0, Succop outscored all but five other kickers. But he wasn't on the field much the rest of the season (when only two teams scored fewer kicking points). He probably won't get enough chances, and he's also converted fewer than 80 percent of his field goals over the last four years.

	at Jac. 28-2	Dall. 17-16	at Phil. 26-16	NYG 31-7	at Tenn. 26-17	Oak. 24-7	Hou. 17-16	Clev. 23-17	at Buff. 23-13	at Den. 17-27	S.D. 38-41	Den. 28-35	at Wash. 45-10	at Oak. 56-31	Ind. 7-23	at S.D. 24-27(ot)
QB A.Smith (run stats)	21-34-0-173 4-25 5,3	21-36-0-223 8-57 2,12	22-35-0-273 11-32	24-41-2-288 7-37 5,2,34	20-39-1-245 3-10	14-31-0-128 4-29	23-34-1-240 6-28 5 run	24-36-0-225 6-40 28,12	19-29-0-124 4-7	21-45-0-230 5-52 6,10	26-38-1-294 2-(-3) 32,4,5	26-42-1-293 4-46 17,12	14-20-0-137 2-7 5,21	17-20-0-287 4-17 49,39,16,7,6	16-28-1-153 6-47	DNP
RB Charles (rec stats)	16-77 3-23 2	16-55 8-48 2 rec	20-92 7-80 3	18-65 5-62 2 rec	22-108 5-37 1	22-78 5-50 7,2	21-86 3-37 1	18-74 5-46	17-90 6-6	16-78 2-(-6)	14-115 4-42 7,1	19-93 2-27 1	19-150 2-8 5 rec, 2	8-20 8-195 7,1,49,39,16 rec, 1	13-106 5-38 31	DNP
RB K.Davis (rec stats)	4-12 1-5	0-0 0-0	6-25 0-0	1-2 0-0	1-2 0-0	0-0 1-(-1)	2-5 0-0	3-13 1-12	0-0 0-0	3-13 1-11	1-3 0-0	1-20 2-18 108 KO return	11-30 1-17 17	9-34 2-8 17	1-2 0-0	27-81 2-5 17,2
WR Bowe	4-30	4-56 12	1-4	4-58 34	4-35	3-46	5-66	1-7	7-67	4-57 6	5-51 5	3-56	4-70 21	3-24	5-46	DNP concussion
WR Avery	2-11 5	2-38	7-141	2-23	3-91	2-6	3-33	3-31	3-22	1-20	4-91 32	2-17	1-7	2-33	3-32	0-0
WR McCluster	3-43	2-14	1-1	5-48 89 punt return	0-0	1-10	4-70	7-67 28	2-9	5-53	7-59	5-43	4-21 74 punt return	DNP ankle	1-11	6-62 2
TE Fasano	2-8	2-26	DNP ankle	DNP ankle/knee	DNP ankle/knee	DNP ankle/knee	4-27	2-14	1-20	4-37 10	4-21 4	3-28 12	DNP concussion/knee	DNP concussion/knee	1-19	DNP
TE McGrath	0-0	2-31	4-31	5-64 5	4-54	0-0	1-1	2-25	0-0	2-40	0-0	1-11	2-20	2-14 6	0-0	1-11
K Succop	-	40 miss: 57	33,31,34,38 miss: 51	51	29,24,33,48	33	22	42,35,40 miss: 52	27,41,39	20	25	-	33 miss: 34	-	-	46 miss: 41
Others	10 INT return Hemingway 3 rec		38 INT return		fumble rec in end zone	44 INT return		Sherman 12 rec 100 INT ret 11 fumble ret				Hemingway 17 rec 95 KO ret	47 INT return			Daniel 2 pass

Miami Dolphins

It's a make-or-break season for Joe Philbin. He's been running the show for two years, and they haven't made enough progress. Two years in a row, the offense has ranked in the bottom 10 in touchdowns. The team fired GM Jeff Ireland and offensive coordinator Mike Sherman in January, leaving Philbin on one of the warmest seats around.

They've brought in Bill Lazor as their new offensive coordinator, and that's intriguing. He was the quarterbacks coach in Philadelphia last year, and he probably will try to install some of the same fast-tempo concepts. He'll work with an offensive line that's a lot better; they signed Brandon Albert and also selected a tackle in the first round.

We're not sticking a silver bullet tag on Lazor just yet. Nick Foles had an insanely good season last year, but we're not sure how much of that can be attributed to Lazor. The same coaching didn't benefit Michael Vick. And the previous three years Lazor was the coordinator at Virginia, and those teams didn't put up special passing numbers.

QUARTERBACK. Ryan Tannehill hasn't received the same accolades as the heralded quarterbacks from the draft class of 2012, but he passed for more yards last year than any of them. From that class, only Russell Wilson has thrown more touchdowns.

Nevertheless, Tannehill remains more similar to guys like Jake Locker and Sam Bradford. He needs to start winning games, or the Dolphins will go in another direction.

Tannehill has some passing ability. He averaged 245 yards per game last year, with 24 TDs. He was particularly good around the goal line. Inside the 10, he went 18 of 27, with 12 TDs. In that part of the field, he completed a league-best 67 percent of his passes, and only Jay Cutler put the ball in the end zone on a better ratio of plays.

But Tannehill hasn't done enough to make anybody confident that he's for real. He hasn't been able to connect on enough deeper passes. He's been poor on third downs. And he took a league-high 58 sacks last year. Some of those can be attributed to a problematic offensive line, but he has a tendency to hold the ball too long.

The Dolphins will continue to push more on his plate, but he doesn't look like a quarterback primed for a stat explosion. He doesn't have great personnel around him, and with the team tweaking its offensive system, it's possible his overall production will go down, even as the offense's production increases.

With increased pressure to win, the coaching staff might be quicker to try Matt Moore if necessary. They like him enough that they're paying him \$4 million this year. But Moore has limited mobility and arm strength. He started 12 games the year before they drafted Tannehill and averaged 194 yards, with 16 TDs and 8 interceptions.

RUNNING BACK. At first glance, it looks like the Dolphins won't have a top-20 running back. They ranked outside the top 25 last year in both rushing yards and rushing touchdowns. They'll also use a one-two punch, with Knowshon Moreno and Lamar Miller sharing time.

But offensive coordinator Bill Lazor worked with the Eagles last year, and Miami's players indicate they'll run that same style of hurry-up offense. If Lazor is able to successfully copy that blueprint, the Dolphins could have the league's most improved running game. Philadelphia led the league in rushing last year, and another hurry-up offense, Buffalo, ranked No. 2. Miami's offensive line will be better.

Moreno is supposed to be the starter. He's an upgrade in the passing game. He's better in protection, and he's also got good hands. He caught 60 passes last year. It's a big step down, not working with Peyton Manning, but 40 receptions are possible.

But Moreno showed up at the spring OTAs looking slow and out of shape. At all of the workouts in May and into early June, Miller worked



ZACH BOLLINGER/ICON SM

Mike Wallace was decidedly mediocre in his first year with the Dolphins, with only 930 yards and 5 TDs.

with the first-team offense, and he might keep the job. He's been the opposite of Moreno, in terrific shape and looking to get his career turned around.

Miller was just OK last year, averaging 4.0 yards per carry. Spelled often, he ran for only 44 yards per game and scored only 2 TDs. But he's one of the five fastest tailbacks in the league; he ran a 4.36 at the combine two years ago, and he averaged 4.9 yards per carry as a rookie in a limited role.

Miller might be a much better fit in this offense, busting long runs through the wide gaps that this offense tends to generate. He doesn't catch or block like Moreno, of course, and he'll need to hold onto the starting job in August, but he potentially could be the surprise 1,200-yard rusher of the season.

Moreno potentially could pick things up better in July and August, moving back to the top of the depth chart. But he was an ordinary runner last year with the Broncos. He ran for 1,038 yards, but he benefited from working against a lot of soft fronts. The Dolphins signed him to a one-year deal worth just \$3 million, so it's not as if they ever viewed him as an Adrian Peterson.

Miami probably will have to work in another back at some point. Daniel Thomas was their No. 2 last year. At 233 pounds, he could be their goal-line runner (he held that role last year). But Thomas has averaged only 3.6 yards per carry the last three years. They might be ready to drop him behind Mike Gillislee, who's three years younger.

RECEIVER. The Dolphins don't have a franchise receiver. They're paying Mike Wallace like one of those guys, but he's not necessarily any better than Brian Hartline. And tight end Charles

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Ryan Tannehill	588	355	60.4	3913	24	17	58	81.7
Opponents	580	344	59.3	4024	17	18	42	77.3
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Lamar Miller	177	709	4.0	2	250	1	--	--
Daniel Thomas	109	406	3.7	4	325	4	581	0
Ryan Tannehill	40	238	5.9	1	211	2	--	--
Dolphins	349	1440	4.1	8	1802	15	1987	11
Opponents	484	1998	4.1	14	1734	10	1530	8
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Brian Hartline	76	1016	13.4	50	4	74	1083	1
Mike Wallace	73	930	12.7	57	5	64	836	8
Charles Clay	69	759	11.0	67	6	18	212	2
Rishard Matthews	41	448	10.9	29	2	11	151	0
Brandon Gibson	30	326	10.9	46	3	51	691	5
Lamar Miller	26	170	6.5	22	0	6	45	0
Dolphins	357	3966	11.1	67	24	293	3425	13
Opponents	344	4024	11.7	67	17	353	4216	18
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Caleb Sturgis	33-33	26-34	8-10	3-7	111	--	--	--
Dolphins	33-33	26-34	8-10	3-7	111	98	131	115
Opponents	33-33	34-40	5-7	5-6	135	123	109	117

Clay is just as likely to lead this team in catches and touchdowns.

Wallace has elite speed. He proved that by averaging 18.7 yards per catch his first three years with the Steelers. But every defense knows that now. Wallace tailed off in his final year in Pittsburgh, and he hasn't had much of a rapport on deep balls with Ryan Tannehill. Wallace has only 20 catches over 20 yards in the last two years. The previous two seasons, he had 44 of those balls.

Once the long ball is taken away, Wallace becomes ordinary. He's not a great route-runner, and he doesn't create size mismatches in the red zone. Inside the 10 last year, the Dolphins went 1 of 5 when passing to Wallace; they went 17 of 22 when passing to everybody else. They're going to move him around more this year, but we're not confident he'll be much better.

Hartline looks pretty similar in value. He's not as fast, but he might be a little better on shorter routes. He also might benefit from seeing fewer double teams. Hartline finished with more receiving yards in over half of the games last year. Unlike Wallace, he's also eked over 1,000 yards two years in a row.

But there's nothing special about Hartline. He's average on deeper routes. He's not a size guy or a superior route runner who'll be the key part of their red-zone offense. He's somehow managed to score only 5 TDs in the last two years, despite starting all 32 games. About 1,000 yards and 5 TDs; that's probably his ceiling.

Clay probably will outscore Wallace and Hartline. He's a good tight end, and he's very effective around the goal line. He caught 7 of 9 passes last year when they were throwing to him inside the 10. They also may use him again as their fullback in short-yardage situations, setting him up to blast in a couple of 1-yard touchdowns. He carried the ball 7 times last year, with one touchdown.

Just under 6-foot-3, Clay is shorter than most tight ends, but he's got good hands and has some tackle-breaking ability after the catch. He caught 69 passes last year, and he caught 68 percent of the passes thrown his way, above-average for a tight end. He should catch over 60 passes, and he's as likely as anyone on this team to reach a half-dozen touchdown catches.

The Dolphins were primarily a three-receiver team last year, and they made extensive use of that third guy – first Brandon Gibson, and then Rishard Matthews after Gibson tore his patellar tendon.

Combined, Miami got 66 catches, 611 yards and 5 TDs out of that position. But the offense is different now, and there are three guys contending for that job – second-rounder Jarvis Landry might not need much time to move ahead of Gibson and Matthews.

KICKER. Caleb Sturgis was just OK as a rookie. He reached the end zone on 85 percent of his kickoffs, 6th-best in the league, but he missed 8 field goals. The Dolphins released Dan Carpenter, meanwhile, and he went a career-best 33 of 36 in Buffalo. Uh ... oops.

But the Dolphins will stay the course. Sturgis has the necessary talent, and young kickers typically settle down with experience. He went 24 of 28 on field goals his final year at Florida, with 3 of the misses on blocks. Assuming Sturgis develops, he's got a reasonable chance of being a middle-of-the-pack scorer at his position.

	at Clev. 23-10	at Ind. 24-20	All. 27-23	at N.O. 17-38	Balt. 23-26	Buff. 21-23	at N.E. 17-27	Cin. 22-20(ot)	at T.B. 19-22	S.D. 20-16	Car. 16-20	at NYJ 23-3	at Pitt. 34-28	N.E. 24-20	at Buff. 0-19	NYJ 7-20
QB Tannehill (run stats)	24-38-1-272 5-3 34	23-34-0-319 4-1 18	24-35-1-236 2-7 18,1	22-35-3-249 4-48 3	21-40-0-307 2-6 9	19-37-2-194 3-5 7,13,4	22-42-2-192 1-12 4,5	20-28-0-208 1-1 1 run	27-42-1-229 1-2 6,19	22-35-1-268 4-21 39	28-42-1-310 4-36 53	28-43-1-331 3-22 31,28	20-33-1-200 3-56 6,12,4	25-37-0-312 1-(-1) 39,14,2	10-27-0-82 0-0	20-40-3-204 2-19 5
RB Miller (rec stats)	10-3 1-7	14-69 2-6 10	8-62 1-2	11-62 1-6 5	7-15 0-0	9-43 1-4	18-89 3-23	16-105 4-24	7-2 2-9	4-17 2-20	10-8 4-39	22-72 1-13	6-20 2-13	15-61 1-0	3-8 0-0	17-73 1-4
RB Thomas (rec stats)	8-14 1-5 1	8-30 1-10	5-21 1-16 5	4-5 1-1	2-1 2-11	12-60 1-(-2)	9-47 1-5 5 rec	12-38 1-4	4-(-2) 0-0	10-57 1-2 1	3-8 2-2	DNP ankle	16-105 1-4 4	5-16 1-2 2 rec	9-6 1-3	2-0 0-0
WR Hartline	9-114 34	5-68	4-56 18	3-34	4-60	6-69	4-37	3-39	5-57	5-65	5-78	9-127 31	5-51 4	5-70	2-53	2-38
WR Wallace	1-15	9-115 18	2-22	3-24	7-105	5-76	3-41	6-82	4-15	4-39	5-127 53	7-82 28	2-19	6-105 39	4-38	5-25 5
WR Gibson	7-77	1-11	6-49	6-71	4-74	5-40 13,4	1-4 4	Injured reserve	Injured reserve	Injured reserve	Injured reserve	Injured reserve	Injured reserve	Injured reserve	Injured reserve	Injured reserve
WR Matthews	0-0	0-0	4-42	1-21	0-0	0-0	3-20	3-24	11-120 6,19	4-52	3-2	2-21	1-5	5-64	1-9	4-58
TE Clay	5-54	5-109 1 run	4-40	6-42 3	3-52 9	1-7 7	5-37	3-22	4-21	6-90 39	4-27	7-80	7-97 6,12	1-6	4-32	4-43
K Sturgis	45,49,36	54	46,50	34	37,25,48 miss: 57	- miss: 51	52 miss: 46,39	36,44 miss: 34	40,30	22,37	32,47,23 miss: 53	34,43,18 miss: 41	30,27 miss: 52	32	-	-
Others			Sims 1 rec		25 INT return			safety 94 INT return						Thigpen 14 rec		

Minnesota Vikings

The Vikings have a new coach and a new offensive coordinator, but they oddly have one of the more well-documented track records. Norv Turner will call the plays, and he's been in charge of an offense (as either a head coach or coordinator) 23 years in a row – the longest current streak of anyone.

A third of Turner's offenses have had top-4 running backs. With the pass, he's a fan of challenging defenses with deep throws. Here he's inheriting a roster with a sneaky amount of talent. The Vikings went just 5-10-1 last year, but their offense scored 41 touchdowns – same as Seattle, Kansas City and San Diego, and more than the 49ers, Colts and Panthers.

Quarterbacking, of course, will be key. And new coach Mike Zimmer needs to cobble together a viable defense. The Vikings allowed a league-high 30 points per game last year. But this team is only a year removed from making the playoffs.

QUARTERBACK. Teddy Bridgewater and Matt Cassel might both start multiple games, but the odds are stacked against either of them being much of a factor. Bridgewater needs experience, while Cassel simply isn't good enough.

The new staff wants Bridgewater to start. He's their first-round pick, and with them putting in a new offense, he's on pretty much equal footing. "Teddy will play when we feel like he's ready, if he's the best guy, which we hope that he will be," says Mike Zimmer. Of the last 16 quarterbacks selected in the first round, all but Tim Tebow and Jake Locker started at least 10 games.

Bridgewater seems unusually polished. He averaged 305 passing yards last year, with 31 touchdowns and only 4 interceptions. Only four other quarterbacks selected in the first round have completed over 70 percent in their final college season, and all except Brandon Weeden have had some pro success – Philip Rivers, Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III.

But Bridgewater can't zip it like those guys. After his pro day disaster, you have to wonder if his arm is a good fit with Norv Turner's long-ball offense. Durability also is a concern; quarterbacks need to hold the ball longer in this system, translating into more sacks and hits. Bridgewater has a thin build and was hurt a lot in college.

The Vikings have a strong running game; that helps. But it's rare for quarterbacks to have much success in their first year. Of the last 40 that have been picked in the first round, only three made it to 20 touchdowns.

Cassel has some downfield throwing ability. That's how he was able to spark the offense last year. Christian Ponder is more of a dink-and-dunker, too quick to settle for check-down completions. The Vikings went 4-3 with Cassel at quarterback last year but won only one other game.

But Cassel is too much like Ryan Fitzpatrick. He's fine when he gets the hot hand, but over the long haul it becomes apparent that he forces too many balls. Over the last three years, Cassel has thrown 30 interceptions in 800 attempts, worst among regular starters. He could be a disaster in this system.

Cassel also struggles with the key shorter throws. Inside the 10 last year, he was the worst passer in the league, completing only 6 of 20 passes, with 2 interceptions and 4 touchdowns. An optimist might argue that Turner would polish him up, but the guy he coached in Cleveland last year was only slightly better (Jason Campbell also went 6 of 20, but without the interceptions).

RUNNING BACK. In each of Norv Turner's last two seasons, his offenses have scored the lowest ratio of rushing touchdowns in the league – 26 TD passes vs. only 4 TD runs for each of those teams. But let's not get too worried about Adrian Peterson. He's a franchise back, and Turner has made good use of great runners in the past.

In Turner's career, he's coached 13 running backs who put up top-10 numbers, and seven of those finished in the top 4 – Emmitt Smith (three times) was his easy one, but he also did it with Terry Allen, Frank Gore, Ricky Williams and Stephen Davis. Peterson might be more talented than all of those guys; he's a year removed from running for 2,097 yards, and he's scored 6 TDs from 60-plus yards in his last 30 games.



BRUCE KLUCKHOHN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Cordarrelle Patterson is an up-and-coming receiver, and also scored 5 TDs on kickoffs and runs last year.

Durability is an issue. With his violent running style, he takes too much punishment; he's undergone surgeries three offseasons in a row. He was hampered by hamstring and groin injuries for most of last year, which played a role in him running for only 1,266 yards and 10 TDs. Peterson also is a poor receiver; he's averaged only 5.6 yards per catch the last two years, worst among running backs.

But ultimately, Peterson is probably still the game's best runner, and at 29, he's got some productive years left. He's one of the few players with a good chance of putting up 1,800-plus total yards and 14-plus touchdowns.

With Toby Gerhart gone, the backup situation is unsettled. Matt Asiata ran for 115 yards in Week 17 against a Detroit defense that was mailing it in, but in his other start he carried 30 times for only 51 yards against Philadelphia. He's really more of a fullback and special teams player.

The Vikings also have third-rounder Jerick McKinnon; he's a 209-pounder who's even faster than Peterson. But McKinnon was primarily a quarterback at Georgia Southern, so he needs development. Minnesota would like to have someone come off the bench and catch 40 passes, but tough to envision them getting McKinnon coached up to handle that role this season.

RECEIVER. There's a three-way battle for the receiving touchdowns. Cordarrelle Patterson is the up-and-coming superstar. Greg Jennings is the experienced veteran. And Kyle Rudolph will probably outscore both of them.

Rudolph was a disappointment last year (even before missing the second half of the season with a broken foot), but he was a Pro

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Matt Cassel	254	153	60.2	1807	11	9	16	81.6
Christian Ponder	239	152	63.6	1648	7	9	27	77.9
Vikings	546	325	59.5	3645	18	19	44	76.0
Opponents	648	419	64.7	4872	37	12	41	98.6
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Adrian Peterson	279	1266	4.5	10	2097	12	970	12
Toby Gerhart	36	283	7.9	2	169	1	531	1
C. Patterson	12	158	13.2	3	--	--	--	--
Christian Ponder	34	151	4.4	4	253	2	219	0
Vikings	423	2081	4.9	23	2634	16	2318	18
Opponents	443	1767	4.0	14	1692	10	1712	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Greg Jennings	68	804	11.8	70	4	36	366	4
Jerome Simpson	48	726	15.1	51	1	26	274	0
C. Patterson	45	469	10.4	79	4	--	--	--
Jarius Wright	26	434	16.7	42	3	22	310	2
John Carlson	32	344	10.8	30	1	8	43	0
Kyle Rudolph	30	313	10.4	31	3	53	493	9
Adrian Peterson	29	171	5.9	22	1	40	217	1
Vikings	325	3645	11.2	79	18	300	2935	18
Opponents	419	4872	11.6	80	37	391	4192	28
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Blair Walsh	43-43	26-30	5-6	2-5	121	141	--	--
Opponents	53-53	27-29	6-7	3-4	134	110	145	96

Bowler in his second year, and Norv Turner knows how to use tight ends. In his last eight offenses, tight ends have averaged 9 touchdowns. Jordan Cameron for him last year.

Rudolph seems to have the hands and route-running ability to go for 800-plus yards, and he's shown he can be outstanding around the end zone. In 2012, he caught 9 of the 10 passes thrown his way when the team was inside the 10, all for scores. Thumbs up for Rudolph.

Turner likes big receivers who can stretch defenses – think Josh Gordon last year, and Vincent Jackson, Malcom Floyd and Danario Alexander in San Diego. Patterson has the right body type (6-2, 220), and he's way better after the catch than any of those guys. Patterson ran for 158 yards and 3 TDs last year and scored another 2 TDs on kickoff returns.

But Patterson is a work in progress. He played only one year of major college ball, and all they did last year was throw him short balls, hoping he could create. In this offense, the routes tend to be the opposite. There's great upside, but it's more likely that Patterson's breakout season is another year down the road.

Jennings doesn't have the same raw ability, but he's been around for eight years. He played well last year in the seven games that Matt Cassel was at quarterback, averaging 70 yards and scoring 4 TDs. He averaged only 39 yards in his other eight games, with no touchdowns.

Jennings has below-average size and speed, but he has the feel for getting open deep anyway. He averaged over 16 yards per catch four straight years at one point in Green Bay. And that veteran savvy might pay dividends in the red zone. We're not overselling, though, because in only two of the last eight years has any wide receiver caught more than 60 passes in a Norv Turner offense (in all eight of those seasons, the wide receivers caught fewer than half of the team's completions).

Jerome Simpson should be the No. 3, and the way they used him last year was more similar to how all of the wide receivers will play this season. Simpson averaged 15.1 yards per catch, over 3 yards more than either Jennings or Patterson. But Simpson isn't physical enough, drops too many balls and has had a host of off-field problems. The Vikings probably would be better with Jarius Wright in that role; he's outscored Simpson 5-1 the last two years. But they seem to prefer Simpson.

KICKER. The Vikings are set with Blair Walsh. He was the youngest kicker who played last year (he's 24 now), and he's already

establishing himself as one of the best at this position. He's been a top-10 guy on kickoffs, he's hit 90 percent of his field goals, and he's gone a jaw-dropping 12 of 15 on kicks from 50-plus yards.

Walsh's fantasy value, however, depends largely on the quality of the group around him. He attempted 8 fewer field goals last year, so Minnesota dropped to 15th in scoring at this position (121 points). The Vikings might (probably will) have problems at quarterback, and they're also playing outdoors this year, which will adversely affect Walsh's range, especially late in the year.

	at Det. 24-34	at Chi. 30-31	Clev. 27-31	Pitt.(U.K.) 34-27	Car. 10-35	at NYG 7-23	G.B. 31-44	at Dall. 23-27	Wash. 34-27	at Sea. 20-41	at G.B. 26-26	Chi. 23-20	at Balt. 26-29	Phil. 48-30	at Cin. 14-42	Det. 14-13
QB Cassel (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	16-25-0-248 2-5 70,16	32-44-2-241 2-7 23	DNP	DNP	DNP	4-6-0-47 1-(-1) 21	5-13-1-78 0-0 21	DNP	20-33-1-243 1-0 8	17-38-0-265 2-6 79,8	26-35-1-382 3-19 6 run,57,5	13-27-3-114 3-16 36	20-33-1-189 4-5 8
QB Ponder (run stats)	18-28-3-236 4-12 4	16-30-1-227 6-18 20	25-42-1-228 5-46 6,8 runs	DNP rib	DNP rib	DNP	14-21-0-145 5-38 19 run	25-37-1-236 4-29 6 run,31	17-21-1-174 2-13 2,28	13-22-2-129 5-0 38	21-30-0-233 3-(-5) 12	3-8-0-40 0-0 concession	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
RB Peterson (rec stats)	18-93 4-18 4 rec,78,4	26-100 1-7	25-88 6-27 2	23-140 0-0 60,7	10-62 3-21	13-28 2-28	13-60 3-23 8	25-140 3-37 11	20-75 2-2 18,1	21-65 0-0	32-146 1-2 1	35-211 2-0	7-13 1-4	DNP groin	11-45 1-2	DNP groin
RB Gerhart (rec stats)	0-0 0-0	1-5 1-3	0-0 2-14	0-0 1-7	1-6 1-10	0-0 2-17	1-13 2-15 13	0-0 1-6	1-4 0-0	7-67 1-7	8-91 1-5	2-8 1-4	15-89 0-0 41	DNP hamstring	0-0 0-0	DNP hamstring
WR Jennings	3-33	5-84	3-43	3-92 70,16	6-34	4-41	1-9	6-56	3-18	DNP Achilles	2-29	7-78 8	5-53	11-163 57	4-27	5-44
WR Simpson	7-140	2-49	3-29	7-124	4-30	3-32	1-18	2-24	4-45	1-1	2-54	3-76	4-48 8	1-19	1-8	3-29
WR Patterson	1-10	2-14 105 KO return	2-49	1-9	2-3	3-22	2-26 109 KO return	3-13	2-22 2	3-28	8-54	1-4 33 run	5-141 79	5-35 5	3-8 35 run	2-31 50 run,8
TE Rudolph	2-27	3-42 20	5-28	2-6	9-97 23	3-27	4-51	2-35 31	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	IR foot	IR foot	IR foot
K Walsh	52	28,28,22	43,30	54,37 miss: 44	22	- miss: 53	36	23 miss: XP	39,40	32,45	36,47,29,35	32,30,34 miss: 57	39,40	21,38 miss: 55	-	-
Others	61 fumble ret			86 punt return			Carlson 28 rec Wright 38 rec Wright 21 rec			Ellison 12 rec			Asiata 1, 1.5 runs Wright 36 rec			

New England Patriots

If you're looking for bargains, you generally want to focus on teams that will put up more yards and points than expected, and players who fill bigger roles than anticipated. This team has plenty of both.

The Patriots have ranked in the top 3 in scoring four years in a row, so it's not as if they're sneaking up on people. But the offense scored only 44 touchdowns last year, 12 fewer than in any of the previous three seasons. As well as New England played in the second half of last year, we think it will move back up to its usual scoring levels.

The degree of difficulty is higher with this franchise because most of the key players started no more than about half of last year because of injuries and lineup changes. One gets the feeling that at least a couple of players on this roster will play key roles in determining winners in fantasy leagues.

QUARTERBACK. Tom Brady will be 37 on opening day and comes off a down season. It ended with him missing some key throws in the AFC Championship at Denver.

But it's premature to suggest that Brady is at end of the road. Most of his troubles last year, can be attributed to what was going on around him.

The team's pass catchers, most notably, had an awful season. Rob Gronkowski and Shane Vereen missed half the year. Rookies Kenbrell Thompson and Aaron Dobson struggled to pick up the offense. And it took the Patriots half the season to realize that Julian Edelman is better than Danny Amendola.

The offensive line also struggled. Defenses sacked Brady 40 times. In only one of his previous eight seasons was he sacked more than 27 times. More pressure tends to result in fewer yards and touchdowns.

But the Patriots started figuring out these problems, like they always do. Brady was a bottom-10 quarterback in his first eight games, completing 56 percent of his passes and averaging 228 yards per game, with 9 TDs. But he put up his usual numbers in the second half of the season – 65 percent passing and 315 yards per game, with 16 TDs.

Maybe Brady isn't quite the quarterback he's been in the past. He might not be quite as good on deeper throws, and they didn't use him as often on quarterback sneaks last year. But with the rest of the offense looking better, Brady has a good chance to re-emerge as a top-5 passer.

Jimmy Garoppolo seems to be the new quarterback of the future. They wouldn't have selected him in the second round unless they thought he might be something special. Ryan Mallett has been around for three years but hasn't progressed quickly enough; he completed only 55 percent in the preseason last year, with 3 TDs and an interception.

RUNNING BACK. The Patriots don't have an Adrian Peterson or LeSean McCoy, but they put up great rushing numbers. Over the last two years, their running backs have run for more yards and touchdowns than any other team in the league.

Tapping into this production is problematic because multiple backs will be involved. Stevan Ridley or Brandon Bolden could lead this team in rushing, and Shane Vereen might put up better numbers than both of them when receiving production is included.

Vereen's role is the most secure. He'll play on passing downs and in one-back sets – Danny Woodhead's old role. Vereen won't run for more than 500 yards, but including receiving production he might rank in the top 15 among running backs in total yards.

Vereen missed half of last season with a wrist injury, but when he was active, he caught more passes for more yards than any running back in the league. With his speed and hands. Something along the lines of 1,300 total yards and 8 TDs is possible.

Ridley should open camp as the starting tailback. He's got some talent, and he's been productive. He split time last year with LeGarrette Blount (now with Pittsburgh), and that tandem ran for 1,545 yards and 14 TDs. The previous year, in more of a featured role, Ridley ran for 1,263 yards and 12 TDs. He's capable of that kind



Rob Gronkowski caught only 59 percent of the passes thrown to him last year, down from 69 percent in 2012.

of production. Like Vereen, he's in a contract year.

But Ridley won't be a factor as a receiver; he's never caught more than 10 passes in a season. And the Patriots might not trust him with more than a part-time role. Three years in a row they've benched him for fumbling. Tough to envision him staying out of Bill Belichick's doghouse for 16 games.

Bolden looks just as likely to lead this team in rushing. He's not particularly talented; he's not fast enough, and he wasn't even drafted two years ago coming out of Mississippi. But he runs hard and gets what's there. Two years in a row he's averaged 4.9 yards per carry with his limited chances.

Belichick places a high value on ball security, and Bolden is strong in this area. He's handled the ball 134 times so far as a pro, with no fumbles. He'll probably get at least a third of the team's rushing production, and he may wind up moving past Ridley.

RECEIVER. Everyone is connected to Rob Gronkowski's surgically repaired left knee. When healthy, he's averaged close to 80 yards and a touchdown per game. When he's out, it creates the opportunity for everyone else to finish with better numbers.

Most likely Gronkowski will miss at least a few games, and he may even begin the season on the PUP list. This is the guy, recall, who tried to come back too quickly from a broken forearm two years ago. He was far more cautious last year, sitting out the first six games when it looked like he might return a month sooner.

When he returns, Gronkowski probably won't be as good as in the past. He might have lost a little speed, and there's some value in the offseason workouts; we saw that last year. Gronkowski caught only

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Tom Brady	628	380	60.5	4343	25	11	40	87.3
Opponents	589	336	57.0	4137	25	17	48	81.0
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Stevan Ridley	178	773	4.3	7	1263	12	441	1
LeGarrette Blount	153	772	5.0	7	151	2	781	5
Brandon Bolden	55	271	4.9	3	274	2	--	--
Shane Vereen	44	208	4.7	1	251	3	57	1
Patriots	470	2065	4.4	19	2184	25	1764	18
Opponents	481	2145	4.5	11	1630	10	1874	13
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Julian Edelman	105	1056	10.1	44	6	21	235	3
Danny Amendola	54	633	11.7	57	2	63	666	3
Rob Gronkowski	39	592	15.2	50	4	55	790	11
Aaron Dobson	37	519	14.0	81	4	--	--	--
K. Thompkins	32	466	14.6	49	4	--	--	--
Shane Vereen	47	427	9.1	50	3	8	149	1
Patriots	380	4343	11.4	81	25	402	4844	34
Opponents	336	4137	12.3	80	25	369	4555	27
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
S. Gostkowski	44-44	38-41	11-13	5-6	158	153	143	56
Opponents	38-38	22-27	5-6	3-4	104	101	98	89

role. Michael Hoomanawanui won't be a factor; he caught only 10 passes in the nine games Gronkowski missed last year, with 1 touchdown.

KICKER. Stephen Gostkowski is fast becoming one of the greatest kickers in NFL history – fantasy history, anyway. He's above-average in accuracy and range, and that offense keeps him insanely busy. The Patriots have ranked in the top 7 in kicking points seven years in a row, and they've finished in the top 3 in all but two of those seasons.

Two years in a row, Gostkowski has broken the team record for kicking, with 153 and 158 points. He's unlikely to finish quite that high – the team should do a better job in the red zone – but in an age where 125-point kickers are pretty common, here's one of the few with a really good chance of going for 140-plus.

59 percent of his targets last year, down from 71 percent the previous two seasons. Even if he plays all 16 games, we don't see him finishing with much more than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Julian Edelman will lead the team in receptions. The Patriots signed Danny Amendola to replace Wes Welker, but in November they figured out that Edelman is better in that role. In the final eight games, Edelman caught 69 passes, 5 TDs and a pair of 2-point conversions.

Edelman doesn't make many catches downfield; he averaged only 10.1 yards per reception last year, lowest ever for a 1,000-yard receiver. But with the volume of balls he's catching, he averaged 90 yards last year after they committed to him. He might catch 120 passes.

Aaron Dobson will need to be checked out in August, but he looks promising. As a rookie he struggled early with drops, but starting in Week 6, he caught 22 passes for 325 yards and 3 TDs in a five-game stretch. Projected over 16 games, that's 70 catches, 1,040 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Dobson missed most of the rest of the season with a stress fracture in his foot, but it's apparent why the Patriots selected him in the second round. He should win that other starting job, and he should play a big role – especially when Gronkowski is out.

The Patriots signed Brandon LaFell to a contract including \$3 million in guaranteed money, but they've missed on free agent receivers before, most notably Chad Johnson. LaFell never got over the hump as a starter in Carolina, where he never had a 700-yard season.

Kenbrell Thompkins is another possibility. He's talented enough that he beat out Dobson last August. But Thompkins didn't play well enough as a rookie. He caught only 32 of the 70 passes thrown his way (46 percent), and the Patriots phased him out late in the year.

New England also has Amendola and Josh Boyce, but they seem better suited for reserve roles. Amendola was a free-agent mistake, but the Patriots will give him a year to maybe turn things around because it would cost more against the cap to cut him. Realistically, Amendola will make an impact only if Edelman gets hurt.

The Patriots don't have any other viable tight ends, but they probably will add one. They looked at Dustin Keller and Jermaine Finley in May. If signed, such a tight end would likely be used in Aaron Hernandez's old

	at Buff. 23-21	NYJ 13-10	T.B. 23-3	at Atl. 30-23	at Cin. 6-13	N.O. 30-27	at NYJ 27-30	Mia. 27-17	Pitt. 55-31	at Car. 20-24	Den. 34-31(ot)	at Hou. 34-31	Clev. 27-26	at Mia. 34-55-1-364	at Balt. 41-7	Buff. 34-20
QB Brady (run stats)	29-52-1-288 4-(-4) 9,8	19-39-0-188 2-(-2) 39	25-36-1-225 5-5 16,5	20-31-0-316 5-(-2) 1,18	18-38-1-197 0-0	25-43-1-269 2-16 17	22-46-1-228 0-0	13-22-1-116 4-5 14	23-33-0-432 1-(-1) 34,17,81,19	29-40-1-296 2-0 9	34-50-0-344 1-3 5,6,14	29-41-1-371 2-0 23,9	32-52-1-418 2-1 2-pt,2,1	34-55-1-364 0-0 13,24	14-26-0-172 0-0 4	14-24-1-122 4-(-3) 2-pt,5
RB Ridley (rec stats)	9-46 0-0	16-40 0-0	11-35 1-8	11-53 2-26	DNP knee	20-96 1-14 1,4	11-50 2-3 17	14-79 0-0 3	26-115 3-9 1,5	13-48 0-0 1	4-14 0-0	DNP	8-35 1-2	8-34 0-0	15-54 0-0	12-74 0-0
RB Blount (rec stats)	7-15 0-0	4-11 0-0	14-65 0-0	9-64 0-0 47	12-51 0-0	7-9 0-0	1-4 0-0	11-46 0-0	5-47 0-0 5	10-49 0-0	2-13 0-0	12-44 0-0 7	8-42 1-32	11-47 1-6	16-76 0-0 1,7	24-189 0-0 36,35
RB Vereen (rec stats)	14-101 7-58	IR wrist	IR wrist	IR wrist	IR wrist	IR wrist	IR wrist	IR wrist	IR wrist	1-7 8-65	10-31 8-60	10-38 5-37 9 rec	3-9 12-153 6	2-13 3-8	2-6 1-4 4 rec	2-3 3-42 5 rec
WR Edelman	7-79 9,8	13-78	7-44	7-118	2-35	5-57	5-44	2-7	1-11	3-27	9-110 5,14	9-101	6-64 2-pt rec,2	13-139 24	7-77	9-65 2-pt rec
WR Amendola	10-104	DNP groin	DNP groin	DNP groin	4-55	2-0	DNP concussion/groin	3-15	4-122 34	6-45	3-17	5-54	4-36 1	10-131	2-45	1-9
WR Dobson	DNP hamstring	3-56 39	7-52	1-10	2-49	6-63	3-34	4-60 14	5-130 17,81	4-38	0-0	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	1-21	1-6
TE Gronkowski	DNP back/forearm	DNP back/forearm	DNP back/forearm	DNP back/forearm	DNP back/forearm	DNP back/forearm	8-114	2-27	9-143 19	5-59 9	7-90 6	6-127 23	2-32	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
K Gostkowski	48,33,35	21,30 miss: 43	53,46,33	48,22,49	42,19	35,54,23	39,44	34,48	20,32	42,26	31,31	53,53 miss: 55	33,50	22,23 miss: 48	45,42	43,35,29,35
Others			Thompkins 16 rec Mulligan 1 rec Thompkins 5 rec Thompkins 18 rec			Thompkins 17 rec Bolden 1 run 79 INT return		Bolden 2 run		Bolden 1 run	Develin 1 run			Hoomanawanui fumble rec 13 rec 74 INT return		

New Orleans Saints

The Saints have passed for more yards and more touchdowns in the last three years than any team in NFL history. There have been other great seasons – Chargers and Dolphins of the mid-'80s, Greatest Show on Turf – but over three-year periods, every offense is over 800 yards behind this one.

But it might be time for Sean Payton to dial it back a notch. Passing stats are nice, but the Saints have been better when they also run the ball. Payton's two 13-win teams both averaged over 130 rushing yards per game. The Saints have averaged under 100 rushing yards five times in the Payton Era, and those teams combined won only one playoff game.

The Saints could have been considering their play calling when they traded away Darren Sproles and added blocking fullback Erik Lorig. The team might run for 30 more yards per game and score maybe a half-dozen more rushing touchdowns. If so, there will be a corresponding decrease in the passing numbers.

QUARTERBACK. Drew Brees will be a top-3 passer, but there's a chance his production will drop a notch, making him more of a very good quarterback rather than a true difference-maker.

Some of the decline could be attributed to play calling. The Saints have forgotten about the run too often in recent years. They're better when they run for 125 yards per game. That mentality showed up at times late last year (particularly in the playoff win at Philadelphia), and if they make a stronger commitment to a more balanced offense this year, it could drive Brees down to around 300 yards per game.

We also have concerns about the offensive line; it's slipped after losing a handful of Pro Bowlers over the years. Brees got sacked 37 times last year – 11 more than in any of the previous seven seasons. He's 35 and one of the league's smallest quarterbacks (6-0, 209); if he gets hit that often again, there's a good chance he'll get hurt at some point.

New Orleans traded away Darren Sproles, and that removes a big cog from the passing game. He averaged 77 catches and 5 TD catches for them. The Saints have other running backs, and first-rounder Brandin Cooks can handle some of those routes, but it could take time to get those new guys comfortable. With Sproles the last three years, Brees averaged 330 passing yards, with at least 39 TDs every season. In his last three seasons without Sproles, Brees averaged 30 fewer passing yards and finished with 33-34 TD passes each year.

Not that Brees won't be one of the best passers again. There aren't a lot of quarterbacks with the potential to average 300 yards and hit the mid-30s in touchdowns. But our feeling is that Brees will be worse, not better.

Luke McCown should be the backup, but he has no fantasy value.

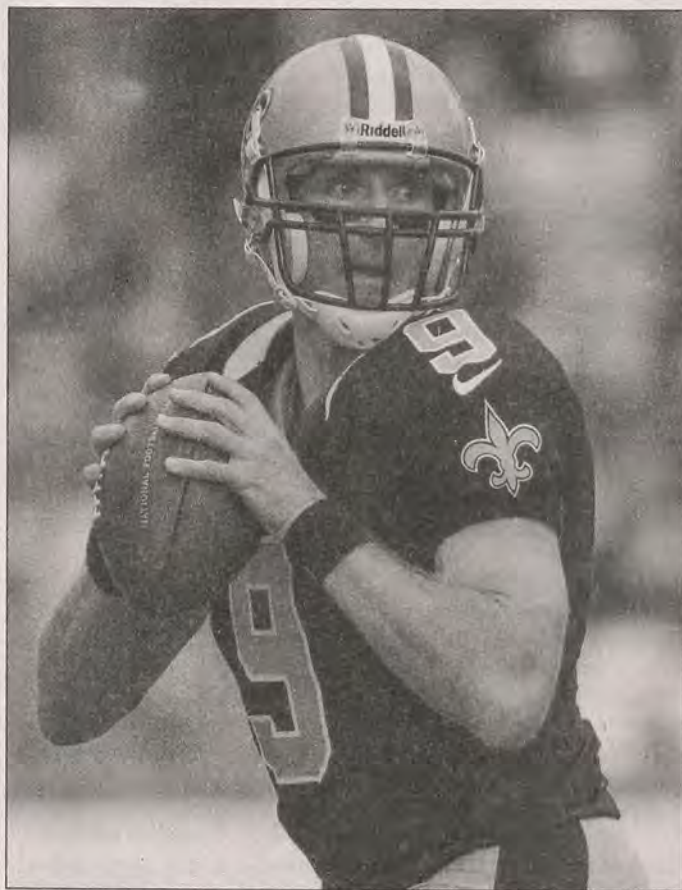
RUNNING BACK. The Saints are one of only four teams that's selected two running backs in the first round in the last eight years. That's weird, since Sean Payton more than anyone else is a fan of splitting the workload between three backs (making it impossible for anyone to put up the kind of numbers associated with first-round picks).

It should be no different this year. Pierre Thomas probably will put up the best overall numbers, but Mark Ingram and Khiry Robinson might not be far behind, and even Travis Cadet could get in on the action.

Thomas is a solid veteran, but the the Saints don't want him carrying a big load – perhaps because he's played 16 games only twice in seven years. Three seasons in a row, he's averaged only 32-35 rushing yards per game. In part because of offensive line problems, he lost yards on 16 percent of his carries last year, worst in the league among backs with at least 100 carries.

Thomas' value is as a pass catcher. He led all running backs with 77 catches last year, and now that Darren Sproles is gone, he looks like a shoo-in for another 60-plus receptions. Sproles caught over 70 passes in each of his three years with the team. While Thomas doesn't have the same quickness, he's their best pass-catching back. Makes sense in PPR formats.

Ingram has been a disappointment, but he came on some last year. He averaged 4.9 yards per carry, and he pounded out 97 yards on 18



ZUMA PRESS/ICON SM

Three years in a row, Drew Brees has averaged over 320 yards per game and tossed at least 39 TD passes.

carries in the playoff win at Philadelphia. If the Saints make more of a commitment to the run, Ingram will be part of that shift.

But the trouble is Ingram doesn't fit this system. He's not good enough as a pass catcher, so they start to look like just another offense when he's in there. He's caught only 24 passes in 37 games as a pro. On the first series against Seattle, he dropped a pass on third down; the next play was a shanked punt and the Saints were behind for good.

Robinson might be this team's best back. He ran hard as a rookie – a 220-pound slasher. The Saints increased his role in the playoffs, and Robinson responded with 102 yards on 21 carries. He caught 11 passes in the preseason, so it looks like he's a better fit in the passing game than Ingram.

It's a pipe dream, however, hoping for Robinson to play enough to run for 700 yards and 7 TDs. He's raw, and the Saints like to rotate their backs. More realistically, he'll be a large part of their backfield – maybe the best of the three.

Cadet is a notch further back. They won't use him much at all as a runner, but with Sproles gone, the Saints could be looking for a running back who can catch 40 passes. Cadet has hardly played his first two years, but he caught 30 passes in the 2012 preseason.

RECEIVER. The Saints put up huge passing numbers, but the wide receivers tend to be window dressing in this system – their role is usually to run clear-out routes, creating mismatches for the backs and tight ends. New Orleans' wide receivers caught only 37 percent of the passes last year, by far the lowest rate in the league.

Tight end Jimmy Graham is the No. 1 option. He's a rare player who

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PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Drew Brees	650	446	68.6	5162	39	12	37	104.7
Opponents	507	304	60.0	3441	20	12	49	83.6
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Pierre Thomas	147	549	3.7	2	473	1	562	5
Mark Ingram	78	386	4.9	1	602	5	474	5
Khiry Robinson	54	224	4.1	1	--	--	--	--
Darren Sproles	53	220	4.2	2	244	1	603	2
Saints	391	1473	3.8	10	1577	10	2127	16
Opponents	387	1786	4.6	11	2361	18	1738	11
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Jimmy Graham	86	1215	14.1	56	16	85	982	9
Marques Colston	75	943	12.6	35	5	83	1154	10
Kenny Stills	32	641	20.0	76	5	--	--	--
Darren Sproles	71	604	8.5	48	2	75	667	7
Pierre Thomas	77	513	6.7	29	3	39	354	1
Lance Moore	37	457	12.4	44	2	65	1041	6
Saints	446	5162	11.6	76	39	423	5187	43
Opponents	304	3441	11.3	60	20	370	4875	31
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Garrett Hartley	41-41	22-30	9-13	1-1	107	111	0	100
Saints	48-48	24-32	10-14	1-1	120	111	147	118
Opponents	32-32	24-28	4-6	3-5	104	134	117	111

KICKER. Shayne Graham doesn't have a strong enough leg. That's why he's kicked for eight different teams in the last five years. But the Saints apparently will roll with him. They've got Thomas Morstead, so they don't need Graham to handle kickoffs. He's accurate on shorter field goals, so he could be their version of Matt Bryant.

There are plenty of good kickers looking for jobs, so Graham's roster spot will need to be monitored throughout August, but some kicker on this team probably will make a run at 130 points. If not for erratic accuracy by Garrett Hartley, the Saints would have ranked in the top 10 in kicking points last year, and they were a top-11 team in each of Sean Payton's last three other seasons.

actually lives up to the overused cliché of being too fast for linebackers and too big for defensive backs. Over the last three years, he's averaged 90 catches and 12 TDs.

As far as we can see, the only slight flaw with Graham is that everybody knows the ball's coming to him, making it harder to get him open. Three years in a row, he's caught a lower percentage of the passes thrown to him, steadily declining from 71 to 60 percent. But with his talent, tough to envision him not catching at least 80 passes and 9 TDs.

Marques Colston has been the No. 1 wide receiver for years, but he's slipping. He's 31, but he moves like he's four years older. He's been plagued by foot and knee problems for years. Back in 2008, Colston averaged 16.2 yards per catch; he averaged only 12.6 last year.

Hard to believe, considering the pinball numbers the Saints put up, but Colston finished last year with only 943 yards and 5 TDs. Maybe he sneaks up to around 1,000 yards and 7 TDs, but it's probably more likely that he breaks down physically. He's missed games in five of his eight seasons.

First-rounder Brandin Cooks should be a big part of the offense. He runs a 4.33, with insane quickness and start-stop ability. They'll probably ask him to run mostly underneath routes, replacing a lot of what they lost when they traded Darren Sproles.

Assuming they can get him coached up and comfortable in the offense, Cooks might be better than Colston from the get-go. He caught 128 passes and 16 touchdowns at Oregon State last year. He also ran for 217 yards and 2 TDs last year, and they'll try him on kick returns. But we'll see. Tavon Austin looked like the same kind of player last year, and he was only so-so as a rookie.

Kenny Stills probably will be drafted too early. He had a solid rookie season, averaging 20.0 yards on 32 catches, with 5 TDs. They'll line him up on the outside, and he'll hit some big plays with his 4.36 speed. Those kind of touchdowns tend to come in the Superdome, making him a viable part-time player.

But Stills probably won't be used any differently. They used him some as a slot guy at Oklahoma, where he caught 82 passes his final season. But with the Saints having added Cooks, Stills should remain a one-trick pony, pretty much running only those vertical routes.

	All. 23-17	at T.B. 16-14	Ariz. 31-7	Mia. 38-17	at Chi. 26-18	at N.E. 27-30	Buff. 35-17	at NYJ 20-26	Dall. 49-17	S.F. 23-20	at All. 17-13	at Sea. 7-34	Car. 31-13	at St.L. 16-27	at Car. 13-17	T.B. 42-17
QB Brees (run stats)	26-35-1-357 3-2 25.7	26-46-2-322 0-0 56	29-46-1-342 6-21 7 run, 7, 16, 27	30-39-0-413 4-2 27, 43, 4, 13	29-35-0-288 1-(-2) 2.25	17-36-1-236 2-11 3.34	26-34-0-332 4-(-1) 15, 13, 15, 69, 42	30-51-2-382 1-(-1) 51, 10	34-41-0-392 0-0 28, 52, 22, 1	30-43-1-305 1-(-1) 3	23-33-0-278 4-(-6) 1, 44	23-38-0-147 1-(-1) 2	30-42-0-313 3-3 6, 15, 5, 8	39-56-2-393 2-8 1 run, 5	30-44-2-281 1-9 5	24-31-0-381 2-8 9 run, 44, 10, 41, 76
RB Thomas (rec stats)	9-43 4-16	5-29 4-19	11-28 6-39	4-1 5-37	19-36 9-55 2, 25 recs	11-51 1-29	14-65 3-29	6-24 7-66	17-87 7-76 1 rec, 1	11-49 5-35	10-73 5-57	4-0 4-21	7-14 4-14	8-21 7-62	4-8 5-7	7-20 1-3 8
RB Sproles (rec stats)	8-22 6-88	7-26 6-36	3-17 4-39	4-28 7-114 13 rec, 5	3-10 3-31	5-15 6-58	0-0 4-0	0-0 1-2	5-12 7-76 28 rec, 3	3-16 4-19	DNP knee/ankle	3-11 7-32	1-38 3-23	7-24 8-38	1-2 3-18	3-(-1) 2-30
RB Ingram (rec stats)	9-11 0-0	8-20 0-0	DNP toe	DNP toe	DNP toe	DNP toe	DNP toe	4-19 0-0	14-145 2-15 4	6-25 1-4	9-32 0-0	8-22 0-0	3-4 0-0	1-5 2-29	13-83 1-7	3-20 1-3
WR Colston	5-68 25	4-63	5-71	7-96	2-15	2-11	3-18	DNP knee	7-107 22	5-80	4-40	4-27	9-125 6, 15	8-92 5	5-63	6-67
WR Moore	2-23	1-15	1-6	DNP hand	DNP hand	DNP hand	3-34 15	6-70	1-14	3-23	2-22	2-12	3-40	6-78	3-47	4-73 44
WR Stills	2-86	1-10	0-0	4-38	0-0	3-64 34	3-129 69, 42	3-35	3-75 52	1-11	2-22	1-3	2-22	4-47	2-23	1-76 76
TE Graham	4-45 7	10-179 56	9-134 7, 16	4-100 27, 43	10-135	0-0	3-37 15, 13	9-116 51, 10	5-59	6-41	5-100 44	3-42 2	6-58 5, 8	2-25	5-73 5	5-71 10
K Hartley	48, 31, 22	44, 41, 27 miss: 43	31	29 miss: 43	47, 19, 36, 48	28, 39	- miss: 47, 38	55, 43 miss: 43	- miss: 37	21, 42, 31	41	-	19	45 miss: 36, 26	free agent	free agent
Others			Meachem 27 rec Watson 4, rec			Cadet 3 run Robinson 3 run			Hill 3 rec Collins 1 run		Watson 1 rec				Graham 2-2 FG Meachem 41 rec	

New York Giants

It's probably best to pretty much ignore last year when scouting the Giants. They're a different team now. Their offensive line is a lot better, and they're using a new offense. Ben McAdoo, a former Green Bay assistant, replaces Kevin Gilbride as the offensive coordinator.

In more of a West Coast system, there will be more short passing, especially to backs and tight ends. A fix here, a tweak there, and this could be the most improved offense in the league. New York outscored only four teams last year, but it was a top-9 team in scoring in each of the five previous seasons.

In the wide-open NFC East, the Giants are right in there with everyone else. The defense looks fine; after a rough start, it allowed only 17.4 points per game in the final 10 weeks of last season. New York managed to finish 7-9 last season, even though it turned the ball over 44 times – the most by any team in seven years.

QUARTERBACK. Eli Manning was remarkably bad last year, with 27 interceptions, but it wasn't all his fault. He had problems with wide receivers, and the offensive line was probably the primary culprit.

"It just made it impossible for our quarterback to function," said offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride, now retired. "(Eli) is a guy where if you give him enough time, he's always going to be throwing the ball to the right person. ... But he's not a scrambler and you've got to give him some help."

Those are correctable problems. The Giants signed four free agent blockers, and they have receivers who can more than replace Hakeem Nicks. That should get Manning back to being an above-average passer.

Manning may have thrown only 18 touchdowns last year and averaged only 239 yards, but in the four previous seasons he averaged 28 touchdowns per season and 264 yards per game. It's not hard to envision Manning moving back into that kind of territory, making him one of the better values in fantasy drafts.

Working against Manning is his mobility – or lack of it. That makes things harder for the offensive line, and he doesn't have the footspeed to take off on scrambles. He's run for only one touchdown in his last 80 games.

More troubling is whether Manning has the playing style to succeed in a West Coast system. Accuracy, quick throws and timing have never been his game. He's never completed 63 percent in a season. His preference is to try for the longer balls downfield. Manning has averaged 12.7 yards per completion over the last three years, 3rd-highest in the league.

But Manning is a 33-year-old who's won a couple of Super Bowl MVPs. Our expectation is he has the flexibility to alter his style. We're putting him down for 255 yards per game and 25 TD passes, and those projections might be too low.

Ryan Nassib or Curtis Painter will be the backup, but neither has any fantasy value. Neither is capable of stepping in and putting up top-20 passing numbers.

RUNNING BACK. Ron Dayne and Tiki Barber. Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw. Tom Coughlin has been rotating his backs for years, and that will be how it plays out again this year. He doesn't have a back capable of playing anywhere close to full time.

Rashad Jennings should be the starter for at least the beginning of the year. He's a 29-year-old career backup who was just battling for a roster spot in Oakland a year ago. But he played well enough in the second half of the season that the Giants signed him to a contract including \$3 million in guaranteed money.

Jennings definitely will play on passing downs. The other options look like liabilities as both receivers and in pass protection. Jennings caught 39 passes last year for Oakland, and in this system he might make it up to 50. He was also a good goal-line runner for the Raiders, successful on 8 of 11 carries when they needed 1 yard.

It's running in general where Jennings might struggle. He was impressive in Oakland last year, averaging 4.5 yards per carry and 67 yards in



ANDREW WEBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

An improved offensive line and a new offense could be just what Eli Manning needs to get back on track.

the eight games he started. But he couldn't do much of anything the previous season in Jacksonville, poking out only 2.8 yards per attempt. On almost every other team, Jennings would be a backup.

David Wilson is their most explosive runner, and he looked like a breakout running back last August, with an 84-yard touchdown and two other runs over 15. He averaged 5.0 yards per carry as a rookie. There's a reason they took him in the first round.

But Wilson has had problems with fumbles, and he's a question mark after his body went numb after a hit against Philadelphia last year. He supposedly will be cleared, but he's not a back they want to slam between the tackles; he's best suited for a change-of-pace role.

Andre Williams might lead this team in rushing. He's just a fourth-rounder, but Tom Coughlin says the Giants were surprised he didn't go in the second. He's a 230-pound tackle breaker who ran for 2,177 yards last year at Boston College. New York has had success in the later rounds with running backs before – Bradshaw, Jacobs and Andre Brown were all selected after the third round.

Williams, however, definitely can't play in passing situations (he didn't catch a pass all of last year). He also piled up a lot of yards last season against bad defenses. Southern Cal, Arizona and Clemson all held him under 3.0 yards per carry, and he went only 9 for 29 against Syracuse.

RECEIVER. New York's overall passing production will increase, and it's a team that's reworked its receiving corps. Those are indicators that the Giants will have some undervalued pass catchers.

Hakeem Nicks is gone, but they won't miss him. He's been plagued

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by injuries, and he's lost some speed. Youngsters Rueben Randle, Jerrel Jernigan and Odell Beckham have a lot more playmaking ability, making the offense a lot more explosive. New York should use a lot more three-receiver sets, so two of those guys should be on the field on most downs.

New York selected Beckham with the 12th pick. He runs a 4.38, and long-term he might be their best receiver. But they'll bring him along slowly, maybe using him primarily on deep routes and kick returns in his first year. New York has selected seven receivers with top-100 picks in the last 10 years, and none of them started as rookies. Maybe 600 yards and 5 TDs for Beckham.

Randle led the team with 6 TDs last year and should take Nicks' job in the lineup, but while he's loaded with potential, he's also made way too many mistakes. Eli Manning led the league in interceptions last year, and 8 of those came on miscommunications with Randle. He might go for 900 yards and 8 TDs, but he also might wind up in the doghouse.

When the Giants let Jernigan play more in the final three games last year, he caught 19 passes for 237 yards and 2 TDs – plus 57 yards and another touchdown on running plays. But there's a playing time crunch here, and Jernigan won't necessarily even be one of their top 3 receivers. He'll get a lot more interesting if Randle implodes.

Victor Cruz looks like the clear No. 1. In each of the last two years, Cruz was a top-10 receiver until the team fell apart. In the first halves of the last two seasons (16 games) he's totaled 99 catches for 1,327 yards and 11 touchdowns. In the second halves of those seasons (including two missed games) he's caught only 60 passes for 763 yards and 3 TDs.

Back in 2011, recall, Cruz was the most productive receiver in the league short of Calvin Johnson. He's got a feel for how to get open and a knack for sneaking deep for long touchdowns (9 TDs over 65 yards in three years). He could be adversely affected by the improved depth in the receiving corps, but our guess is Cruz will be selected too late in most fantasy drafts.

In this West Coast system, the Giants would like to use their tight end a lot more in the passing game, so they'll probably bolster this position before the start of the season. They signed Kellen Davis, but he's just a blocker; he caught 37 passes in two years starting in Chicago. They have unheralded youngsters Adrien Robinson and

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Eli Manning	551	317	57.5	3818	18	27	39	69.4
Opponents	601	361	60.1	3787	21	17	34	78.3
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Andre Brown	139	492	3.5	3	385	8	--	--
Peyton Hillis	73	247	3.4	2	309	1	587	3
Brandon Jacobs	58	238	4.1	4	7	0	571	7
David Wilson	44	146	3.3	1	358	4	--	--
Giants	381	1332	3.5	11	1862	18	1427	17
Opponents	454	1743	3.8	12	2066	9	1940	15
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Victor Cruz	73	998	13.7	70	4	86	1092	10
Hakeem Nicks	56	896	16.0	57	0	53	692	3
Rueben Randle	41	611	14.9	37	6	19	298	3
Brandon Myers	47	522	11.1	27	4	79	806	4
Jerrel Jernigan	29	329	11.3	30	2	3	22	0
Giants	325	3875	11.9	70	18	323	3967	26
Opponents	361	3787	10.5	56	21	341	4299	26
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Josh Brown	31-31	23-26	7-8	1-2	100	41	81	125
Giants	31-31	23-26	7-8	1-2	100	145	100	104
Opponents	40-40	29-30	10-10	4-5	127	116	120	105

Larry Donnell, but neither of those guys ever caught 20 passes in a college season. New York had no interest in retaining Brandon Myers.

KICKER. Josh Brown is average at best in terms of range and accuracy. He's hit 82 percent of his career field goals, and over the last three years he's just 2 of 6 from 50-plus. The Rams, recall, cut him loose, and the Bengals opted to go with Mike Nugent.

Ultimately, though, the big issue here is the team itself – not enough scoring opportunities. Lawrence Tynes chipped in 145 points two years ago, but New York otherwise has been a bottom-10 kicking team three years in a row, averaging 101 points. Stranger things have happened, but Brown should be a below-average scorer.

	at Dall. 31-36	Den. 23-41	at Car. 0-38	at K.C. 7-31	Phil. 21-36	at Chi. 21-27	Min. 23-7	at Phil. 15-7	Oak. 24-20	G.B. 27-13	Dall. 21-24	at Wash. 24-17	at S.D. 14-37	Sea. 0-23	at Det. 23-20	Wash. 20-6									
QB Manning (run stats)	27-42-3-450 2-8 70,18,10,4	28-49-4-362 0-0 23	12-23-1-119 1-14	18-37-1-217 2-12 69	24-52-3-334 0-0 26,6	14-26-3-239 0-0 37	23-39-0-200 3-5 24	25-39-0-246 1-(-1)	12-22-1-140 3-(-3) 5	25-35-1-279 1-3 26	16-30-0-174 0-0 27,4	22-28-1-235 3-0 22	20-32-2-259 0-0 5	18-31-5-156 0-0	23-42-1-256 2-(-2) 20	10-24-1-152 0-0 24									
RB Brown (rec stats)	IR leg	IR leg	IR leg	IR leg	IR leg	IR leg	IR leg	IR leg	30-115 1-4 1	18-66 3-27	21-127 4-11 2-pt run	14-35 3-23 23,1	16-81 3-15	11-17 4-9	16-40 2-14	13-11 0-0									
RB Jacobs (rec stats)	free agent	7-4 0-0 1	3-2 0-0	1-5 1-5	11-37 0-0	22-106 1-8 4,1	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring/knee	5-9 0-0 1	9-75 0-0	DNP knee	DNP knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee									
RB Wilson (rec stats)	7-19 0-0	7-17 0-0	11-39 0-0	13-55 2-8	6-16 0-0 5	DNP neck	DNP neck	DNP neck	IR neck	IR neck	IR neck	IR neck	IR neck	IR neck	IR neck	IR neck									
WR Cruz	5-118 70,18,10	8-118	3-25	10-164 69	5-48	4-68	5-50	7-86	3-37	8-110	2-27	6-80	5-42	2-25	DNP knee/concussion	DNP knee									
WR Randle	5-101	3-14	2-40	1-7	6-96 26,6	3-75 37	3-40 24	0-0	3-50 5	3-37 26	3-64	3-20	2-27	0-0	4-40	0-0									
WR Nicks	5-114	4-83	0-0	3-33	9-142	4-70	2-28	7-51	4-49	4-50	DNP abdomen	2-34	5-135	1-5	4-52	2-50									
TE Myers	7-66 4	6-74	3-33	0-0	2-35	0-0	2-15	3-42	0-0	3-32	3-39 27	5-61 22	4-26 5	3-37	4-53	2-9									
K Brown	20	36,24,41	- miss: 38	- miss: 44	-	-	35,23,36	40,44,33,46,27	23	40,28	21,23	39	-	-	41,52,45	34,38 miss: 50									
Others	Scott 23 rec			Hillis 1 run			21 blocked punt return			24 INT ret			Murphy 4 rec			Hillis 1 run		38 INT ret		Jernigan 24 rec		Jernigan 20 rec		Jernigan 49 run	

New York Jets

New York looks like it will rank in the top 5 in rushing and the bottom 5 in passing. That's always been the mindset under Rex Ryan anyway. All but one of his offenses were a lot better rushing than passing. This is the coach who once described his offense as "ground-and-pound."

Despite struggling for much of last year, the Jets still ranked 6th in rushing. Now they've added some pieces that will make that running game even better. Chris Johnson still has the speed to break long runs, and Michael Vick might enhance the offense with that threat of him keeping the ball on bootlegs.

The Jets also signed Eric Decker, but the mentality of this offense won't suddenly change. New York has ranked 30th in passing two years in a row, and a move up to around 20th simply isn't going to happen. If the Jets can bull their way back into the postseason after a two-year absence, it will be with a conservative, blue-collar approach.

QUARTERBACK. The Jets signed Michael Vick, but he doesn't look like the answer to their quarterbacking problems. Geno Smith appears to be just as good – maybe better. Both of these guys may start multiple games, but neither should be much of a factor in fantasy leagues.

Along with Deion Sanders and Randy Moss, Vick is one of the greatest athletes the league has seen in the last quarter century. But he's 34 now, and that angle-destroying speed is gone. He's still one of the top half-dozen running quarterbacks, but not a guy that defenses fear anymore.

In part because he was always such a great runner, Vick never developed properly as a passer. Too often he either misses throws or goes to the wrong receiver. He completed only 55 percent of his passes last year (slightly worse than Smith). Vick also gets himself in trouble by hanging onto the ball too long. Over the last three years, he's fumbled more often (per play) than every other quarterback.

Ultimately, it's about moving the ball and winning games, and Vick has gone only 5-11 as a starter the last two years. When the Eagles benched him last year, their offense took off under Nick Foles.

Smith played reasonably well last year, considering he was a rookie. He's almost as mobile as Vick, and he has a lot more upside as a passer. Smith completed a lot of downfield strikes last year; only six quarterbacks averaged more yards per completion. And Smith was very strong for the first five weeks of last season, completing 60 percent and averaging 258 yards (then he fell apart).

In all likelihood, Smith just needs time. The Jets will have a good running game, which helps. They also have better receivers now. We can't promise Smith will be their starter, but he looks like the more appealing of these options.

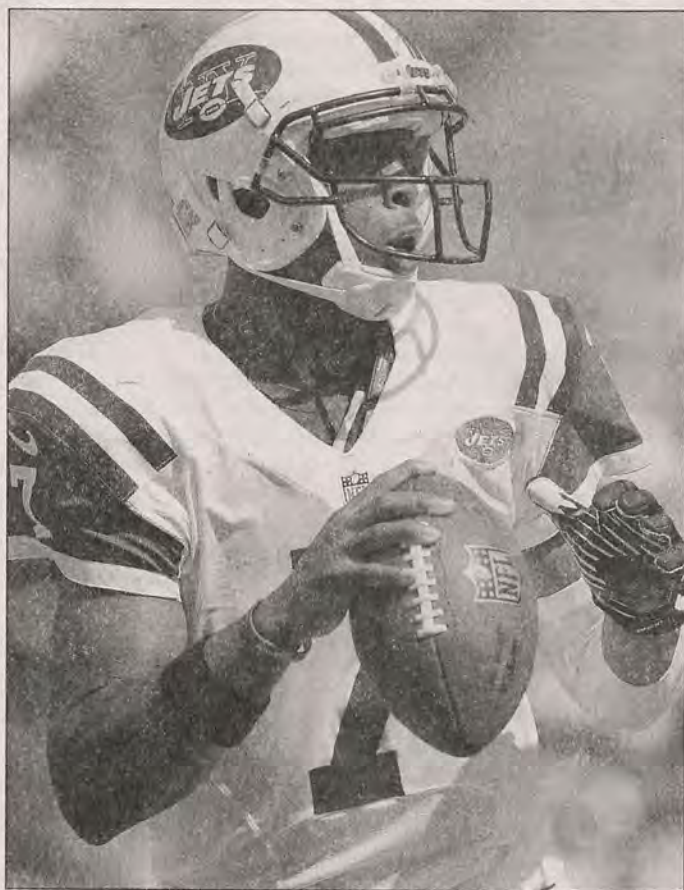
Setting aside the issue of who's starting, we don't expect the Jets will rank in the top 25 in passing. If either Vick or Smith is able to compile significant numbers at times, it will be by supplementing their passing with above-average rushing production. For fantasy purposes, neither should be better than a spot-duty option.

RUNNING BACK. The Jets will have a top-5 running game, but they might not have a top-15 fantasy back. They will attack defenses with a lot of different runners, including their quarterback.

Heck, even defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson might run for 3-4 TDs. They started using him as a fullback in short-yardage situations late last year, and he punched in 1-yard touchdowns in two of the final three games. If the Jets run for 14-16 touchdowns (which is what we're figuring), probably nobody will run for more than 7 TDs.

Chris Johnson will be the starter. He's one of the league's best big-play runners. He's not as explosive as he was early in his career, but he's still managed to score 3 TDs from 30-plus yards in each of the last two seasons.

But Johnson will be 29 before the end of September, and he also weighs only 191 pounds. At this point in his career, he's best utilized as part of a one-two punch. They won't use him in goal-line situa-



RICH KANE/ICON SM

Believe it or not: Geno Smith averaged 6.9 yards per attempt last year, which was higher than Andrew Luck.

tions, and he might not be their main back on passing downs either – they might prefer Bilal Powell in that role.

Key will be how Johnson adapts to New York's offense. He struggled in two of his final three years with the Titans, averaging only 3.9 yards per attempt. Sometimes it looked like the blocking schemes were poor and that Tennessee simply wasn't committed enough to the run, but at other times he just didn't seem to be running hard enough.

Getting released probably stung Johnson's pride. That might give him some extra motivation. But it's hard for a part-time back to put up franchise numbers. We're not sure he'll finish in the top 10 among running backs in rushing or receiving yards, and he definitely won't in touchdowns.

Chris Ivory should be a big part of the backfield. He runs angry and bangs out tough yards. He's averaged 4.7 yards per attempt in recent years – over a half yard more than Johnson. He went over 100 yards last seasons in the upset wins over New England and New Orleans.

We expect the Jets will give Ivory at least half as many carries as Johnson, and his role will expand if he's more effective. He'll probably be the back in goal-line situations, making him just as likely to lead the team in rushing touchdowns. Working against Ivory is his lack of receiving ability; he caught only 2 passes all of last year.

The Jets also have Powell. If there's an injury, they'll elevate him into the No. 2 role, and he could be their main back on passing downs. Powell caught 36 passes last year, leading offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg at one point to call him one of the best third-down backs in the league.

RECEIVER. New York's passing game will be improved, but

probably not enough for any receiver to put up good numbers. The Jets haven't thrown more than 14 TD passes since 2011, and two years in a row only two teams have finished with fewer passing yards.

The Jets upgraded this group with Eric Decker. In each of the last two years, he's caught 4 more touchdowns than all of New York's wide receivers combined. In both of his seasons with Peyton Manning, he caught at least 85 passes. Only Dez Bryant has caught more touchdowns over the last two years.

Decker has above-average size and speed, but the bulk of that production can be attributed more to playing with Manning. In 2011 Decker played with Kyle Orton and Tim Tebow and finished with 44 catches, 612 yards and 8 TDs. He's New York's No. 1 option, but in this offense it will be tough for anyone to get past 800 yards or 6 TDs.

Jeremy Kerley should be the other starter, and he's better than most realize. The Jets averaged only 199 passing yards two years ago, but Kerley still managed to catch 56 passes for 827 yards. If you could time-machine Decker back into that offense, his numbers wouldn't have been any better.

Kerley's numbers were down last year, but he missed four games and the offense just struggled in general. He's fine. He doesn't have the size or speed to run vertical routes, but he has the hands, toughness and route-running ability to work the middle of the field. He's a lot better than their other receiving options – David Nelson and Greg Salas.

The Jets are ready to give up on Stephen Hill. They selected him in the second round because of his insane measurables, but it just hasn't happened. New York selected two more receivers in the fourth round this year who need to fit onto the roster. Jalen Saunders weighs only 165 pounds but should be a threat on punt returns. Shaq Evans is a development pick.

The Jets selected Jace Amaro in the second round, and he looks like another Dennis Pitta. He's as much a slot receiver as a tight end. Amaro caught 106 passes last year at Texas Tech. He could become their top dumpoff option.

The regular tight end, Jeff Cumberland, is sneaky good. He caught 65 percent of the passes thrown his way last year, which is more than the likes of Jimmy Graham and Rob Gronkowski. He also averaged 15.3 yards per catch, so for overall production per attempt, Cumberland was

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Geno Smith	443	247	55.8	3046	12	21	43	66.5
Opponents	586	345	58.9	4189	26	13	41	86.5
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Chris Ivory	182	833	4.6	3	217	2	374	1
Bilal Powell	176	697	4.0	1	437	4	21	0
Geno Smith	72	366	5.1	6	--	--	--	--
Jets	493	2158	4.4	12	1896	12	1692	14
Opponents	421	1412	3.4	9	2138	17	1777	17
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Jeremy Kerley	43	523	12.2	26	3	56	827	2
Santonio Holmes	23	456	19.8	69	1	20	272	1
David Nelson	36	423	11.8	31	2	2	31	0
Jeff Cumberland	26	398	15.3	47	4	29	359	3
Kellen Winslow	31	388	12.5	34	2	1	12	0
Stephen Hill	24	342	14.3	51	1	21	252	3
Bilal Powell	36	272	7.6	36	0	17	140	0
Jets	266	3270	12.3	69	13	272	3178	14
Opponents	345	4189	12.1	77	26	266	3206	20
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Nick Folk	27-27	33-36	12-14	3-3	126	93	101	127
Opponents	40-40	33-37	12-15	2-3	139	109	125	88

the No. 2 tight end in the entire league last year. But with the Amaro pick, Cumberland should do more blocking and less pass catching.

KICKER. Kickers tend to get better with age, and Nick Folk seems to fit that profile. After finishing under 78 percent on field goals four years in a row, Folk (who's 29) put together a career season, hitting 33 of 36. He kicked three game-winners, and he went 3 for 3 on long field goals.

All he needs, it seems, is a little more help from the offense around him, and the Jets have much better personnel now than they did a year ago. Folk needs to confirm that this new-found accuracy is here to stay, but he looks like a mid-range prospect with some matchup appeal and potential to challenge for the top 10.

	T.B. 18-17	at N.E. 10-13	Buff. 27-20	at Tenn. 13-38	at Atl. 30-28	Pitt. 6-19	N.E. 30-27	at Cin. 9-49	N.O. 26-20	at Buff. 14-37	at Balt. 3-19	Mia. 3-23	Oak. 37-27	at Car. 20-30	Clev. 24-13	Mia. 20-7
QB G. Smith (run stats)	24-38-1-256 6-47 7	15-35-3-214 3-17	16-29-2-331 4-14 8 run, 51, 69	23-34-2-289 3-7 34	16-20-0-199 3-21 20, 16, 1	19-34-2-201 3-8 8 run, 12	17-33-1-233 6-32	20-30-2-159 2-8	8-19-0-115 6-18 3 run	8-23-3-103 1-0	9-22-2-127 3-6	4-10-1-29 1-2	16-25-1-219 5-50 8 run, 25	15-28-1-167 6-44 9	20-36-0-214 10-48 17 run, 6, 5	17-27-0-190 10-44 7 run
RB Ivory (rec stats)	10-15 0-0	12-52 0-0	4-5 0-0	DNP hamstring	4-27 0-0	4-16 0-0	34-104 1-(-2)	6-11 0-0	18-139 0-0 3	15-98 0-0 1	9-35 0-0	12-61 1-12	18-76 0-0 15	11-68 0-0	20-109 0-0	5-19 0-0
RB Powell (rec stats)	12-29 4-35	13-48 2-22 3	27-149 2-9	14-66 3-42	12-38 1-9	9-30 3-20	3-6 0-0	10-19 4-20	9-29 0-0	5-27 1-1	11-41 3-24	7-34 3-25	8-14 1-24	8-37 4-19	7-54 4-26	21-76 1-(-4)
WR Kerley	3-45	DNP concussion	2-25	4-65	5-68 16	2-19	8-97 12	3-27	1-1	DNP elbow	DNP elbow	DNP elbow	4-41 25	1-25	5-70	5-40
WR Nelson	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	2-9	1-11	4-80	8-80	1-19	1-12	0-0	3-37	4-32	3-44	4-33 6, 5	5-66
WR Hill	6-39	7-86	3-108 51	0-0	2-21	3-48	1-17	4-23	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	DNP knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
TE Winslow	7-79 7	3-16	0-0	6-73	1-1 1	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	league suspension	1-17	2-34	3-26	3-61	1-12	3-35	1-34
TE Cumberland	0-0	0-0	3-26	1-34 34	3-79 20	4-59	3-41	1-9	DNP concussion	3-25 13	1-9	1-6	0-0	3-50 8	2-30	1-30
K Folk	43, 40, 48	37	47, 34	45, 47	22, 36, 43	25, 39	37, 37, 42	46, 47, 50	39, 21, 47, 45	miss: 48	27	20	41, 23, 51	54, 33	21 miss: 49	35, 26 miss: 35
Others	safety		Holmes 69 rec			23 INT return		Simms 13 pass					blocked punt S. Richardson 1 run rec in end zone		S. Richardson 1 run	

Oakland Raiders

The Raiders look like a shoo-in for last place in the AFC West. They went 4-12 last year, while every other team in that division made the playoffs. And Oakland didn't have a particularly strong offseason, losing their two best free agents (Lamar Houston, Jared Veldheer) while signing mostly guys well past their prime.

Making matters worse, the Raiders play a killer schedule. In addition to the six division games, they'll also see Seattle, San Francisco, New England and Arizona (which went 10-6 last year). Collectively it works out to a win-loss record of 148-108, making this the toughest schedule by any team in five years.

But it's best not to totally write off seemingly hapless teams. The Jets, for example, were supposed to be a doormat last year but somehow managed to go 8-8. And Oakland's offense, for all its troubles, managed to score 33 touchdowns last year—more than 10 other teams. While it might seem otherwise, chances are some players on this team will have some fantasy value.

QUARTERBACK. The Raiders are taking a leap of faith with Matt Schaub. His confidence looks shot, and he was slipping even before last year. Hard to believe he's the guy who will end Oakland's run of 11 straight years without a winning record.

Back in his first three seasons with the Texans, Schaub completed over 66 percent of his passes. He peaked in 2009, at 298 yards per game and 29 touchdowns. Only three quarterbacks put up better numbers that season.

But now Schaub's production has declined four years in a row. He's not connecting on the downfield throws, and he's completed only 61 percent in two of his last three seasons. He bottomed out last year, benched after having interceptions returned for touchdowns four games in a row.

Maybe Schaub is somehow sparked by playing in a new city, but he looks like the kind of quarterback who needs to be surrounded by the right teammates. When he was playing well in Houston, he was helped along by Andre Johnson, Arian Foster, and a good line. He doesn't have a strong supporting cast here.

The Raiders selected Derek Carr early in the second round, and he'll probably finish the season in the starting lineup. They'll be losing games, and they'll want to get him ready for 2015.

Carr put up unprecedented numbers at Fresno State last year, with 5,085 yards and 50 TDs. But that was in a spread system, with lots of short throws. Blaine Gabbert ran a similar offense at Missouri, and he's flopped in the pros. Gabbert and Christian Ponder are the only first-rounders in this century who've averaged fewer yards per completion in their final college seasons.

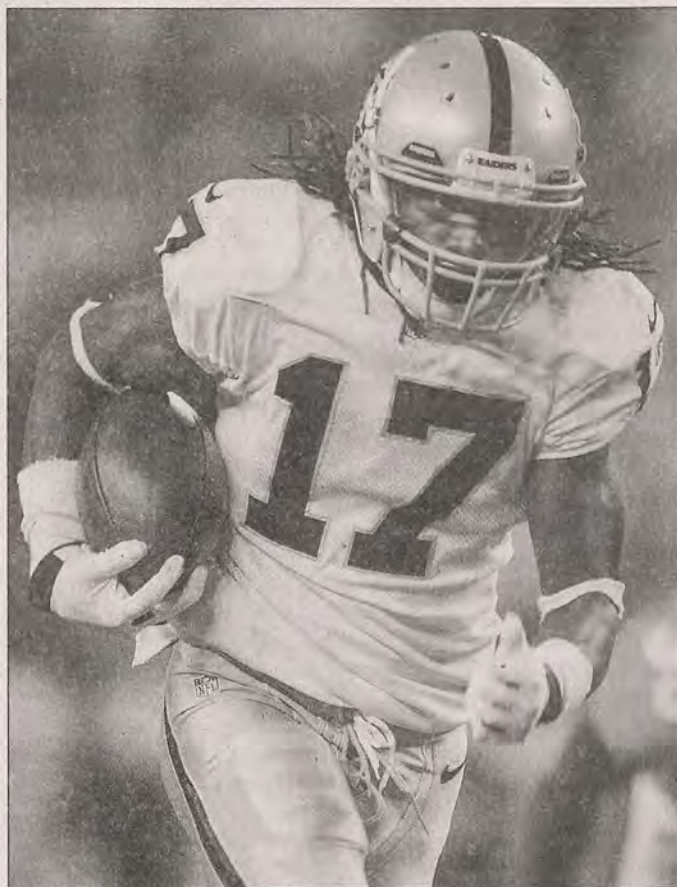
Nobody questions Carr's arm; it's probably stronger than the three quarterbacks selected before him. But he needs development. He's worked out of a shotgun, and because of the offense he was running, he has limited experience reading defenses. Tough to see him being a factor before 2015.

Matt McGloin is the wild card; he was surprisingly good as a rookie. He gets the ball out of his hands (only Peyton Manning was sacked less often), and he connects on deep throws. He averaged 13.1 yards per completion last year, 4th-best in the league. But McGloin has physical limitations. He's undersized and his arm isn't strong enough.

RUNNING BACK. Four years ago, Maurice Jones-Drew and Darren McFadden both went over 1,600 combined yards. Now, together, they'll try to spark a bottom-10 running game. Setting aside Terrelle Pryor's scrambling, Oakland's running backs last year ran for only 85 yards per game.

Both of these backs should play, but Jones-Drew should be the starter and get more work. He's a more powerful runner, with better vision and cutting ability. With long strides, McFadden has better distance speed, but he's best utilized as a change-of-pace back who can hit some big plays on sweeps and flex out like a wide receiver.

Jones-Drew is 29 and averaged only 3.4 yards per attempt last year. He's lost some power and burst. But it's too early to write him off. He was stuck in a lost cause last year in Jacksonville. He averaged 4.8 yards per carry



Denarius Moore has some ability to get deep, and he's led the Raiders in TD catches three years in a row.

two years ago. Back in 2011, he averaged 100 rushing yards per game.

Between the tackles, there's no comparison between these guys. Jones-Drew can put his head down and burrow for yards. At 6-foot-1 and with an upright style, McFadden is too much like a wide receiver. That's why the Raiders have avoided using him at the goal line over the years. Latavius Murray will get a look in August, but Jones-Drew should get those carries.

While Jones-Drew should lead this team in rushing and touchdowns, he won't get back to putting up the kind of jaw-dropping numbers he compiled in Jacksonville. He's slipped some, and the Raiders won't use him as extensively. Something along 1,200 combined yards and 9 TDs is probably his ceiling if everything goes right.

McFadden isn't durable enough (six years in a row, he's missed at least three games), and he hasn't been productive recently. He's averaged only 3.3 yards per attempt over the last two years. When he became a free agent in March, no other teams were seriously interested in signing him.

But there is some potential, if it can be properly harnessed. In the 2010-11 seasons, McFadden ran for 89 yards per game, averaging 5.3 yards per carry. He also averaged 33 receiving yards in those games, and he doesn't turn 27 until just before opening day. But tough to envision him being used heavily enough to help fantasy teams. McFadden got beat out last year by Rashad Jennings (who signed with the Giants).

Marcel Reece, oddly, is Oakland's highest-paid running back. Two years in a row, he's had a 100-yard game, and he's the only back in the league who averages over 10 yards per catch over the last four years. But Reece should be a fullback only. When the Raiders want

to work in a third tailback, it's more likely to be Murray, who showed some potential in camp as a rookie before landing on injured reserve, or Kory Sheets from the CFL.

RECEIVER. There's a chance that nobody on this team will make it to 800 receiving yards or catch 6 TDs. The Raiders will have a lesser passing attack, and there's not much difference between their top 3 wide receivers – maybe their top 4.

James Jones has the biggest contract. He led the NFL with 14 touchdown catches two years ago. But it's a big dropoff from Green Bay to Oakland. Over the last five years the Packers have thrown 177 touchdown passes – one less than twice as many as the Raiders.

Jones has some ability, but he never quite got over the hump with the Packers. In seven years there, he was always behind at least two other receivers in the pecking order. He dropped too many passes, and reached 800 yards only once. Doesn't look like a guy who'll now become an 80-catch receiver.

Denarius Moore seems like a better option. He knows the offense, and he's been a little more impressive over the last three years, averaging 52 yards in the 39 games he's started, with 18 TDs. Moore has led the team in touchdown catches three years in a row.

Moore isn't particularly big or fast, and he's had problems staying healthy. But he's shown some ability to get downfield. He averaged 15.1 yards per catch last year. He's also in a contract year, making this the biggest season of his career.

Rod Streater is also in the mix. He finished last season with more catches and yards than either of them. He's probably their best receiver at working the middle of the field. But we expect the Raiders will utilize him as a slot receiver, decreasing his playing time and opportunities.

If Andre Holmes continues to develop, he'll need to play more. He's raw (New England waived him a year ago) but Holmes has the best ability of all of these guys. At 6-foot-4 and 210 pounds, he's built like A.J. Green, and he started putting things together late last year, catching 22 passes for 366 yards and a touchdown in the final five weeks.

Mychal Rivera caught 38 passes and 4 TDs as a rookie, and his role could expand. Matt Schaub is at quarterback now, and he's always relied heavily on his tight ends, especially in the red zone.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Terrelle Pryor	272	156	57.4	1798	7	11	31	69.1
Matt McGloin	211	118	55.9	1547	8	8	6	76.1
Raiders	519	298	57.4	3629	17	20	44	73.9
Opponents	549	374	68.1	4352	33	9	38	105.1
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Rashad Jennings	163	733	4.5	6	283	2	--	--
Terrelle Pryor	83	576	6.9	2	51	1	--	--
Darren McFadden	114	379	3.3	5	707	2	614	4
Raiders	437	2000	4.6	16	1420	4	2110	16
Opponents	442	1727	3.9	15	1897	18	2178	15
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Rod Streater	60	888	14.8	66	4	39	584	3
Denarius Moore	46	695	15.1	73	5	51	741	7
Andre Holmes	25	431	17.2	40	1	2	11	0
Mychal Rivera	38	407	10.7	37	4	--	--	--
Marcel Reece	32	331	10.3	45	2	52	496	1
Rashad Jennings	36	292	8.1	24	0	19	130	0
Raiders	298	3629	12.2	73	17	376	4292	24
Opponents	374	4352	11.6	71	33	347	3960	28
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
S. Janikowski	37-37	21-30	8-11	3-7	100	118	129	142
Opponents	52-52	25-28	5-5	4-4	127	143	115	107

The Texans have thrown over twice as many touchdown passes to tight ends as the Raiders over the last three years.

KICKER. Sebastian Janikowski has been the most overrated kicker of this century. He's got the big leg, but he isn't efficient enough on the shorter kicks, and he's almost always saddled with a lesser offense. Only twice in the last 10 years has he been a top-10 scorer – he's usually in the bottom 10.

Janikowski has kicked a league-high 20 field goals from 50-plus over the last four years, but he's also missed a league-high 13 – he's below-average from that range. And with Oakland's offense looking as dysfunctional as ever, he's as likely as any kicker to fall short of the 100-point mark.

	at Ind. 17-21	Jac. 19-9	at Den. 21-37	Wash. 14-24	S.D. 27-17	at K.C. 7-24	Pitt. 21-18	Phil. 20-49	at NYG 20-24	at Hou. 28-23	Tenn. 19-23	at Dall. 24-31	at NYJ 27-37	K.C. 31-56	at S.D. 13-26	Den. 14-34
QB Pryor (run stats)	19-29-2-217 13-112 5	15-24-0-126 9-50	19-28-0-281 4-36 73	DNP concussion	18-23-0-221 11-31 44,2	18-34-3-216 7-56 39	10-19-2-88 9-106 93 run	22-41-2-288 10-94	11-26-1-122 5-9 1 run	DNP knee	DNP	DNP	2-5-0-20 3-4	1-5-1-12 3-19	DNP	21-38-0-207 9-49 9,14
QB McGloin (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	7-15-0-87 0-0	DNP	18-32-0-197 3-(-3) 5,16,26	19-32-1-260 2-6 27	18-30-1-255 2-(-1) 2-20 48,1	18-31-1-245 1-0 2-20 48,1	18-35-4-297 3-19	20-36-1-206 1-5	DNP
RB McFadden (rec stats)	17-48 3-18 1	19-129 4-28	12-9 0-0 16 pass, 1	5-29 0-0	DNP hamstring	16-52 3-31	24-73 2-5 7,4	5-12 1-3	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	5-13 0-0	DNP ankle	DNP ankle	4-8 1-8 5	7-6 3-15
RB Jennings (rec stats)	2-2 0-0	4-32 1-2	0-0 2-15	14-45 8-71	10-41 0-0	4-12 1-9	2-8 0-0	15-102 7-74 8	20-88 2-19	22-150 2-(-2) 80	16-73 4-49	17-35 1-8 1,1	DNP concussion	23-91 3-12 1,1	10-45 3-27	4-9 2-8
WR Streater	5-70	3-42	3-42	2-18	3-56 44	3-46	4-45	5-98	1-6	6-84 16	5-93	3-57	7-130 48	4-59	1-2	5-40 14
WR Moore	5-43 5	0-0	6-124 73	4-66	5-84 2	5-82 39	2-32	5-82	3-45	2-11 5	DNP shoulder	DNP shoulder	DNP shoulder	2-46	3-17	4-63
WR Holmes	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	0-0	0-0	DNP hamstring	0-0	1-33	2-32	7-136	3-63	4-58 6	5-71	3-38
TE Rivera	2-26	3-32	2-21	2-44 18	1-5	2-10	0-0	4-36	2-22	5-54 26	1-10	2-30	5-21 1	3-30 14	2-43	2-23
K Janikowski	38 miss: 48	46,30,29,29 miss: 35	-	-	47,50 miss: 52	-	miss: 51	24,53	33,24	-	52,48,24,42 miss: 32,48	45	41,40 miss: 52	34	20,42	- miss: 42
Others	Reece 11 run Reece 16 rec blocked punt 25 fumble ret Flynn 18 pass Stewart 2 run 43 INT ret Reece 27 rec 23 fumble ret Reece 63 run Kasa 9 rec															

Philadelphia Eagles

The Eagles are set up to decline offensively. They released their most explosive player, and it's always tough to follow a great season anyway. Philadelphia averaged 33 points in the second half of last year – more than even the Broncos. In this century, 15 franchises have averaged over 30 points (over a full season), and two thirds of those teams averaged at least 5 fewer points the next year.

At the same time, let's give some credit to Chip Kelly. Defenses should catch up to him some, but he's proven that he has concepts and play designs that translate to the pro level. He's up there with Sean Payton and Marc Trestman as one of the most innovative tacticians in the game.

On our board, we're projecting the Eagles to score a half-dozen fewer touchdowns. A much harder schedule will be a factor. But we don't see Philadelphia falling apart; this should still be one of the top half dozen offenses.

QUARTERBACK. Nick Foles doesn't look like a one-year wonder. He won't be as productive as last season, but this scheme looks too good for him to fall on his face.

This is a run-based offense. The Eagles attempted more passes last year than only five other teams. But when they throw, it's often downfield for a big play. Foles averaged 14.2 yards per completion last year, a yard more than anybody (and the most by any quarterback in the last seven years).

They lose DeSean Jackson, of course, but he wasn't their only deep threat. Riley Cooper averaged over 18 yards per catch with Foles at quarterback. Their running backs averaged a league-high 10.7 yards per catch, and their tight ends would have been No. 1 as well if not for Vernon Davis in San Francisco. This system gets players open.

Foles has the arm and vision to make the throws, and he's also awfully smart with the ball. He threw 27 TDs versus only 2 interceptions, and his 119.2 passer rating was the 3rd-best in league history.

With the Eagles emphasizing the run, Foles might be only average in terms of passing yards. Including the playoffs, he averaged 259 yards in 11 starts last year. But he's awfully good at putting the ball in the end zone. Only Peyton Manning and Drew Brees averaged more touchdown passes.

And Foles' secret weapon is his running ability. He isn't all that mobile, but they consistently catch defenses off guard with designed runs, including around the goal line. Foles averaged 20 rushing yards in his 11 starts last year, with 3 TDs. With that dimension factored in, Foles is a candidate to be a top-5 player at his position.

Mark Sanchez probably will be the backup, but he doesn't seem like a great fit with this offense. He struggled with accuracy and decision-making in New York. Since 2011, he's completed under 56 percent of his passes, with 52 turnovers in 31 games (worst in the league).

RUNNING BACK. What goes up must come down. That's the rule of thumb when a player puts up big numbers – like LeSean McCoy leading the NFL last year with 2,146 combined yards.

In this century, 27 running backs have finished with over 2,000 total yards. Only four of those players came back the next year and put up even more. The natural tendency is for a decline. Setting aside Tiki Barber (who retired) the other 26 on average declined by 543 yards and 4 TDs.

McCoy looks like he'll be in that group. Opponents have now had an offseason to mull over how to better defend Chip Kelly's system. Some may look at the tape of the playoff loss to New Orleans. The Saints focused heavily on McCoy, limiting him to 73 yards on 21 carries.

The Eagles apparently will lighten McCoy's load. They traded for Darren Sproles and will pay him \$4 million. He might cost McCoy 15 yards per game as both a runner and a receiver.

The Eagles won't pull McCoy at the goal line. He was the best short-yardage runner in the league last year, good on 18 of 22 carries when they needed 1 yard. Nevertheless, they work in some other players; he scored only 9 of their 19 rushing touchdowns last season.



Nick Foles averaged 14.2 yards on his completions last year, the highest by any quarterback in seven years.

Not that anybody is suggesting McCoy shouldn't be one of the first running backs selected in every fantasy draft, but some decline is expected. About 1,800 yards and 10 TDs is what we're going with.

At 31, Sproles has lost some explosiveness. He averaged only 4.2 yards per carry last season, down from over 5 the previous three years. And he's slipped on kick returns. But he can still play. He caught 80 percent of the passes they threw him last year, higher than either of his other two seasons with the Saints.

The Eagles probably won't use Sproles extensively as a runner – maybe 200-300 yards – but they'll cook up effective ways to use him in the passing game. All three of their running backs averaged over 10 yards per catch last year. Sproles won't catch 70-plus passes like he always did in New Orleans, but 40 catches looks possible.

The Eagles traded away Bryce Brown, who didn't fit this offense, so Chris Polk is the traditional backup. Should McCoy get hurt, they'll leave Sproles in the same role and make Polk their starting, featured runner. Should he get a chance to start any games, Polk might be a top-5 back when he's in there.

RECEIVER. DeSean Jackson may have been a pain in the rear in the locker room – that's why the Eagles cut him – but it will be tough to replace that playmaking ability. Philadelphia doesn't have another receiver of that caliber.

Riley Cooper put up big numbers last year, for example, but he benefited more than anyone from playing opposite Jackson. Jackson drew the double teams, leaving Cooper isolated against lesser corners. He'll get more attention this year, and there will be more games where he's simply shut down; Cooper struggles to get separation against better defensive backs.

BRACE HEIMELGARN/USA TODAY SPORTS

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Nick Foles	317	203	64.0	2891	27	2	28	119.2
Michael Vick	141	77	54.6	1215	5	3	15	86.5
Eagles	508	310	61.0	4406	32	9	46	102.7
Opponents	670	408	60.9	4907	25	19	37	84.0
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
LeSean McCoy	314	1607	5.1	9	840	2	1309	17
Bryce Brown	75	314	4.2	2	564	4	--	--
Michael Vick	36	306	8.5	2	332	1	589	1
Nick Foles	57	221	3.9	3	42	1	--	--
Eagles	500	2566	5.1	19	1874	10	2276	20
Opponents	443	1671	3.8	12	2021	11	1801	11
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
DeSean Jackson	82	1332	16.2	61	9	45	700	2
Riley Cooper	47	835	17.8	63	8	23	248	3
LeSean McCoy	52	539	10.4	70	2	54	373	3
Brent Celek	32	502	15.7	42	6	57	684	1
Zach Ertz	36	469	13.0	38	4	--	--	--
Jason Avant	38	447	11.8	31	2	53	648	0
Eagles	310	4406	14.2	70	32	367	4075	18
Opponents	408	4907	12.0	66	25	292	3668	33
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Alex Henery	45-45	23-28	7-10	1-2	114	106	118	0
Opponents	35-36	27-32	8-10	3-6	117	133	86	99

KICKER. Alex Henery will be a free agent at the end of the season, and it will be interesting to see how much of an effort the Eagles make to re-sign him. He's OK, but at 177 pounds, he's the lightest kicker in the league, and that results in him having less range. He's a bottom-10 guy on kickoffs, and he's only 2 of 5 from 50-plus yards in his three years.

Henery scored a below-average 114 points last year, and he looks unlikely to make a move up into the top 10. The Eagles won their division last year (generally good for a kicker), but it's a team that tends to put the ball in the end zone. The offense produced 23 more touchdowns than field goals attempts – 3rd-most behind the Broncos and Bengals.

We'll concede that Cooper seems to have an outstanding rapport with Nick Foles. In the 11 games they played together, Cooper averaged 4 catches and 72 yards, with 8 TDs. He's 6-foot-3, and they'll look to utilize that height on long throws and around the end zone. Somewhere around 900 yards and 6-7 TDs looks likely.

Jeremy Maclin takes Jackson's spot in the lineup, but he doesn't have the same speed or elusiveness (especially coming off knee surgery). Jackson terrorized defenses last year, piling up 1,332 yards and averaging 16.2 yards per catch. Maclin in his last two healthy seasons has averaged 858 yards, down at 13 yards per catch.

Chip Kelly no doubt will come up with ways to get Maclin open for some deep balls, but Maclin doesn't have that burst to take the top off a defense. We don't see him being a particularly big part of their red-zone offense either. About 800 yards and 5-6 TDs looks a reasonable estimate.

Second-rounder Jordan Matthews should be their slot receiver. Jason Avant filled that role last year, catching 38 passes and 2 TDs. Matthews is big (6-3, 212) and can work the middle of the field; he caught 202 passes his last two years at Vanderbilt. But he also has more speed than either Maclin or Cooper; he'll probably be this team's best receiver next year.

Third-rounder Josh Huff should be just a situational player; they'll rotate him in and hope for some big plays. He played at Oregon, so he's got some background in this offense, but he doesn't appear to have the hands or route-running experience to be a full-time player right away.

The tight ends should be heavily involved. Brent Celek and Zach Ertz really came on last year after Foles became the quarterback. In the final nine games, they combined for 45 catches and 9 TDs. They caught only 28 passes and 2 TDs in the first eight games.

Ertz is the more dynamic of the two, and they're just starting to tap into his potential. The Eagles released Avant in the offseason, and Ertz could absorb a lot of that workload. They'll also probably look to use him more around the goal line; he caught 3 short touchdowns in his final six games last year.

Celek shouldn't be as extensively, but he's got some ability to get downfield. Of his 32 catches last year, 13 went for 20-plus yards (the best ratio of any tight end in the league). He also outscored Ertz. About 40 catches and 6 TDs looks possible.

	at Wash. 33-27	S.D. 30-33	K.C. 16-26	at Den. 20-52	at NYG 36-21	at T.B. 31-20	Dall. 3-17	NYG 7-15	at Oak. 49-20	at G.B. 27-13	Wash. 24-16	Ariz. 24-21	Det. 34-20	at Minn. 30-48	Chi. 54-11	at Dall. 24-22
QB Foles (run stats)	DNP	0-1-0-0 0-0	DNP	3-4-0-49 0-0 6	16-25-0-197 3-1 25.5	22-31-0-296 3-2 4 run, 12, 47, 36	11-29-0-80 3-25	DNP concussion	22-28-0-406 4-10 2, 17, 63, 15, 25, 46, 5	12-18-0-228 8-38 55, 45, 32	17-26-0-298 9-47 4 run	21-34-0-237 9-22 6, 1, 24	11-22-1-179 6-23 2-pt, 1 run, 19	30-48-1-428 5-41 2-pt, 30, 3, 16	21-25-0-230 2-17 5, 10	17-26-0-263 5-(-5) 3, 14
QB Vick (run stats)	15-25-0-203 9-54 3 run, 25, 28	23-36-0-428 5-34 2 run, 13, 61	13-30-2-201 4-99 22	14-27-0-248 8-41	6-14-0-105 7-79	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	6-9-1-30 1-1	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-0-0-0 2-(-2)	DNP
RB McCoy (rec stats)	31-184 1-5 34	11-53 5-114	20-158 0-0 41	16-73 1-21	20-46 6-46 1	25-116 2-55	18-55 2-26	15-48 4-17	12-44 4-36 25 rec	25-155 1-6	20-77 4-73 1, 1	19-79 5-76	29-217 1-4 40, 57	8-38 5-68	18-133 6-29 1, 1	27-131 1-3 3 rec
RB Brown (rec stats)	9-25 0-0	3-13 1-1	3-7 0-0	8-19 2-41	5-11 1-6	5-20 0-0	2-4 0-0	3-(-1) 1-2	7-54 1-6	4-11 0-0	4-2 2-28	5-4 0-0	6-19 0-0 2-pt run	0-0 0-0	9-115 0-0 65	2-11 0-0 6
WR Jackson	7-104 25	9-193 61	3-62	2-34	7-132 5	6-64 12, 36	3-21	8-63	5-150 46	4-80 55	4-82	3-36	4-59 19	10-195 30	4-29	3-28
WR Cooper	2-14	2-25 13	2-29	2-25	0-0	4-120 47	6-88	2-13	5-139 17, 63, 5	3-102 45, 32	3-37	3-48	3-74 2-pt rec	4-29 2-pt rec	3-53 5	3-39
TE Celek	2-56 28	0-0	2-18	3-57	3-47 25	1-10	1-9	2-17	3-27 2	1-7	1-12	4-29 1	2-29	1-25	3-58 10	3-71 14
TE Ertz	1-11	2-58	1-5	1-38	2-38	3-13	3-33	1-5	5-42 15	0-0	2-31	5-68 6, 24	0-0	6-57 3	1-27	3-43
K Henery	48	25, 48, 32 miss: 46	29 miss: 48	35, 25 miss: 46	40, 27, 29, 36, 41	24	31 miss: 60	-	-	25, 41 miss: 39	24	32	-	35, 51, 33	49	47
Others	safety		Avant 22 rec	Polk 4 run Maehl 6 rec				2 fumble ret					Polk 38 run	Avant 16 rec	54 INT ret safety, Polk 10 run	

Pittsburgh Steelers

The trend in Pittsburgh has been to pass more and win less. The Steelers averaged under 30 passes back in 2010, their last Super Bowl season. That's steadily climbed to almost 37 attempts last year, when the team missed the playoffs in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 2000.

This is a team that seems to be better with a more balanced approach. The team went 6-2 down the stretch last year when it started relying more on the run. With Emmanuel Sanders and Jerricho Cotchery signing with other teams, look for that more run-oriented mentality to spill over into this season.

Not that the Steelers are going back to the kind of offense they ran with Jerome Bettis, but they should run often enough to move out of the bottom 10 in rushing (while probably also finishing out of the top 10 in passing).

QUARTERBACK. Ben Roethlisberger should put up above-average numbers, but he's not going to hang with the true playmakers. He's not on the short list of quarterbacks who could average 290 yards and crank out 35-plus touchdowns.

Five years in a row, Roethlisberger has compiled above-average passing numbers, averaging 269 yards, with 118 TD passes in 71 games. That works out to an average of 26.6 touchdowns per .16 game season. And that type of production is probably his ceiling if everything goes right.

But the Steelers lost their second and third receivers in free agency, and they're probably going to run the ball more anyway. They've gotten too pass happy the last two years, averaging only 91 rushing yards per game (more than only four other teams). The team got a lot more competitive in the second half of last season, when Roethlisberger averaged 50 fewer passing yards per game.

Not that Roethlisberger will go back to being the kind of game-manager quarterback he was when he won his first Super Bowl. But a shift down to 250-255 passing yards looks likely, and he'll probably finish with 25-27 TD passes (which in today's wide-open game is barely above average).

Also note that entering his 11th year, Roethlisberger doesn't run as often as he did earlier in his career. He's run for only one touchdown in the last three years. Previously, he'd run for 2 TDs six years in a row. And those who select him must assume the risk that Roethlisberger is more likely to pick up an injury than most quarterbacks (he's started 16 games only twice in his career).

Assuming he stays healthy and the Steelers can adequately work in some new receivers, Roethlisberger should be one of the top 15 quarterbacks in most fantasy formats. But he doesn't look particularly likely to crack the top 10 – probably more of a second starter than a quarterback to be relied on week in and week out.

Unless Landry Jones makes dramatic improvement, Bruce Gradkowski will be the backup. Neither one has any fantasy value. On the off chance either one starts any games, they won't put up top-20 numbers.

RUNNING BACK. LeVeon Bell and LeGarrette Blount form a sizeable one-two punch. Among starters and second-stringers, they'll likely be the two largest tailbacks in the league.

Bell (244 pounds) will be their main runner, but he's unlikely to be as heavily used as last year. He averaged 24 touches during the second half of last season – 2nd-most in the league. Now they've got Blount (250) to pick up some of the load.

Bell put together a serviceable rookie season, rushing for 860 yards and 8 TDs after missing the first three games, but he wasn't a standout. He's not particularly fast, and he doesn't break a lot of tackles. Lay some of the blame on the offensive line, but he averaged only 3.5 yards per carry.

Enter Blount. He averaged 5.0 yards per attempt for the Patriots, with two games over 160 yards if you include the playoffs. Blount ran for 1,007 yards as a rookie with the Bucs, and he averaged 5.0 yards



LeVeon Bell carried a big workload as a rookie but wasn't all that effective, averaging 3.5 yards per carry.

per carry that year as well. It makes sense to give him 5-10 carries per game and see what happens.

The Steelers might consider making Blount their designated goal-line back. Bell struggled in short-yardage last year, successful on only 11 of 20 carries when the team needed a yard. That was the lowest success rate of all 30 running backs who had at least 10 of those carries. Bell was the only Pittsburgh running back to run for a touchdown last year, and that will change.

But despite his size, Blount really hasn't been good in those situations either. He went 5 of 8 last year when the Patriots needed 1 yard. In his three years with the Bucs, he was only 5 of 14. He seems to have good feet and power, but in our eyes that situation is up in the air. We're going with a 60-40 split on Pittsburgh's rushing touchdowns.

Bell's value is in the passing game. While he's ordinary as a receiver, he's one of the few backs who stays in on passing downs. He caught 45 passes as a rookie. Maybe he loses some third-down work to rookie Dri Archer, who might be the league's fastest player, but tough to envision Pittsburgh using a 173-pound running back too heavily. Archer might just return kicks. Regardless, Bell is one of the few backs with a chance at 1,500 yards.

Blount should put up nominal stats in most weeks, but he's an injury away from being a valuable commodity. If elevated into the starting role, his rushing production should be even better than Bell's – he'd have fresh legs, and he wouldn't be spelled as often. But Blount is a poor pass catcher, so even if he's starting don't look for more than about 10 receiving yards per game.

MITCH STRINGER/USA TODAY SPORTS

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Blount averaged 75 rushing yards in the 24 games he started at Tampa Bay, with 11 TDs. He averaged 71 rushing yards last year when the Patriots let him carry the ball at least 10 times (they rotated their backs), with 5 TDs in those eight regular-season games.

RECEIVER. The Steelers need to re-work their passing game, especially around the goal-line. Emmanuel Sanders and Jericho Cotchery signed with other teams, and those were the players they featured in that part of the field. Inside the 10, they combined to catch 11 touchdowns last year.

Heath Miller should pick up some of that slack. He caught a league-high 10 passes in that area the previous year, including 8 scores. But Miller will be 32 in October, and he's been slipping. Setting aside 2012, he's caught only 5 TDs in his last 44 games. About 600 yards and 5 TDs is probably his ceiling.

The more intriguing possibility is Markus Wheaton. He hardly played as a rookie, catching only 6 passes, but that's not unusual for a young receiver, especially in Pittsburgh. Plaxico Burress, Hines Ward, Nate Washington – none of those guys caught touchdowns in their first year, but they all had 1,000-yard seasons later.

The Steelers selected Wheaton in the third round, and they're not giving up on him. He caught 91 passes and 11 touchdowns his final year at Oregon State, and he also ran for 552 yards and 4 TDs in his last three seasons there. He might make everyone quickly forget about Sanders or Cotchery.

Antonio Brown will be their lead dog. He ranked 2nd in the NFL last year in both catches and yards. Hard to match 110 catches and 1,499 yards, but he's in the small subset of receivers who could make a run at 100 catches. Now he just needs to score more.

For reasons we can't explain, the Steelers have never made much of an effort to get Brown involved in that money area of the field. He's caught only 4 TDs (and 2 other passes) inside the 10 over the last three years. He's caught 234 other passes in the same period. Now that they're adjusting their playbook, there's a good chance Brown will get more end-zone looks.

The Steelers signed Lance Moore, but he looks like an insurance policy – a guy to maybe use to if Wheaton flops. The Saints phased out Moore last year (he caught only 37 passes), then released him in the offseason. Most likely he'll be Pittsburgh's slot guy, catching maybe 40 passes and 4 TDs.

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Ben Roethlisberger	584	375	64.2	4261	28	14	42	92.0
Opponents	569	329	57.8	3751	21	10	34	82.7
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
LeVeon Bell	244	860	3.5	8	--	--	--	--
Jonathan Dwyer	49	197	4.0	0	623	2	123	0
Felix Jones	48	184	3.8	0	402	3	575	1
Ben Roethlisberger	27	99	3.7	1	92	0	70	0
Steelers	394	1383	3.5	9	1537	8	1903	13
Opponents	433	1849	4.3	18	1450	9	1597	7
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Antonio Brown	110	1499	13.6	56	8	66	787	5
Emmanuel Sanders	67	740	11.0	55	6	44	626	1
Jericho Cotchery	46	602	13.1	36	10	17	205	0
Heath Miller	58	593	10.2	31	1	71	816	8
LeVeon Bell	45	399	8.9	43	0	--	--	--
Steelers	377	4306	11.4	67	28	354	4012	27
Opponents	329	3751	11.4	81	21	299	3159	19
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Shaun Suisham	39-39	30-32	8-8	0-0	129	118	105	61
Opponents	38-39	28-31	8-10	1-2	123	115	87	96

Pittsburgh's also taking a flyer on Darrius Heyward-Bey, but we doubt he'll even make the team. He flopped in Oakland, and the Colts gave up on him last year. Fourth-rounder Martavis Bryant is just as big and fast, and he comes in with a blank canvas. With these being the Steelers, Bryant should redshirt this year.

KICKER. Shaun Suisham probably has the weakest leg in the NFL. He reached the end zone on a league-low 55 percent of his kickoffs last year (only one other team was under 70 percent), and he's converted only 3 of 10 field goals from 50-plus in the last six years. Some of the blame can be attributed to Heinz Field, but he's simply not a power kicker.

Far more kicks, however, come from shorter ranges, and Suisham is very good on those. He's hit 92 percent the last two years, 3rd-best in the league. If the Steelers can move back to the top of the AFC North, Suisham probably will finish as a top-10 scorer at his position.

	Tenn. 9-16	at Cin. 10-20	Chi. 23-40	Min.(U.K.) 27-34	at NYJ 19-6	Balt. 19-16	at Oak. 18-21	at N.E. 31-55	Buff. 23-10	Det. 37-27	at Clev. 27-11	at Balt. 20-22	Mia. 28-34	Cin. 30-20	at G.B. 38-31	Clev. 20-7
QB Roethlisberger (run stats)	21-33-1-191 1-0 4	20-37-1-251 1-6 1	26-41-2-406 2-7 33,21	36-51-1-383 0-0 15	23-30-0-264 2-11 55	17-23-0-160 3-25 3	29-45-2-275 1-1 9	28-48-2-400 2-(-1) 27,20,8,6	18-30-1-204 0-0 5	29-45-0-367 6-12 34,47,1,20	22-34-0-217 2-(-3) 41,4	28-44-0-257 1-11 8,1	23-39-0-349 1-8 5,43,16	20-25-1-191 0-0 12	16-28-1-167 1-13 13 run, 1, 11	19-31-2-179 4-9 9
RB Bell (rec stats)	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	16-57 4-27 8,1	16-34 3-22	19-93 1-6	13-24 5-27 2	16-74 4-65	22-57 3-39 4	18-36 4-52	23-80 2-18	16-73 7-63 1	15-61 5-19	24-57 5-50 1	26-124 1-5 1	20-90 1-6 5
WR A. Brown	5-71	6-57	9-196 33,21	12-88	9-86	6-50	9-82	5-71 27	6-104	7-147 34,47	6-92 41	5-59	5-138 43	5-66 67 punt ret, 12	6-105	9-87
WR Sanders	7-57	5-78	4-39	4-57	3-70 55	1-7	7-88 2-pt run, 9	6-98	4-13	1-2	6-52 4	6-43 8	4-65 5	5-38	2-7 1	2-26
WR Cotchery	4-34 4	3-59	3-52	5-103 15	0-0	4-41	3-39	7-96 20,8,6	2-31 5	3-48 20	0-0	2-6 1	5-57 16	1-2	1-9	3-25 9
WR Wheaton	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-26	DNP finger	DNP finger	DNP finger	DNP finger	0-0	3-38	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
TE Miller	DNP knee	DNP knee	3-35	6-70	6-84	2-17 3	3-19	4-43	1-6	8-67	5-41	8-86	3-56	4-35	3-17	2-17
K Suisham	-	44	27,36,44	26,28	46,33,48,32	34,28,38,42	47 miss: 34,32	30	36,37,23	25,34,21	47,32	-	-	25,45,26	31	30,32
Others	safety	Moye 1 rec								W. Johnson 1 rec 21 INT ret			19 INT return		Spaeth 11 rec 40 INT return	

St. Louis Rams

St. Louis' offense changed dramatically when Sam Bradford tore his ACL last year. Not because Bradford is a much better passer than Kellen Clemens (though he is), but because it caused the Rams to realize that too often they were forgetting about the run.

Under Bradford, the Rams were built around spreading the field and using short passes. Bradford averaged 241 yards per game, but the Rams ran for a league-low 71 yards per game. They got a lot more conservative under Clemens; their passing dropped by 57 yards per game, but their rushing production almost doubled, up to 140 yards per game.

Bradford's back now, but we expect the Rams will play with a style influenced by what worked in the second half of last year. St. Louis will make more of an effort to be patient with the run, relying less on Bradford's arm. Ultimately the Rams should be a middle-of-the-pack team in both rushing and passing.

QUARTERBACK. The Rams tried to build everything around Sam Bradford last year, but it didn't work. He couldn't move the offense consistently enough, and the Rams went just 3-4 (with two of the wins against Jacksonville and Houston).

Bradford's stats last year look good on the surface. He averaged 241 passing yards, with a 14-4 ratio of touchdowns to interceptions. But the Rams were blown out three times and averaged only two touchdowns (they didn't score any rushing touchdowns in his games).

Too many of Bradford's passes were of the short, harmless variety. He averaged only 6.4 yards per attempt, 3rd-worst in the league. And his touchdown passes came from an average of 7.6 yards; if not for Christian Ponder in 2012, that would be the lowest by anyone in the last 10 years.

Some of this dink-and-dunk tendency can be attributed to the design of the system. They were scheming to get the ball out of his hands quickly, hoping their receivers could create after the catch. But Bradford has been around for four years, and he's yet to show much ability to get the ball downfield.

Bradford seems like he could be another Alex Smith, with a tendency to default to the shorter, safer throws rather than trying for the riskier strikes downfield. Only three quarterbacks (including Smith) threw a lower percentage of interceptions last year.

For this year, we expect the Rams will move away from the spread formations and possession passing game. With more running plays, Bradford might pass for 10-15 fewer yards per game and become more of an average touchdown thrower – maybe 24 TDs. Bradford won't be a factor as a runner (especially coming off an ACL surgery).

Backup Shaun Hill looks like an upgrade over Kellen Clemens. In his 10 starts with the Lions (back in 2010), Hill was surprisingly serviceable, averaging 259 yards, with 16 TDs and 12 interceptions.

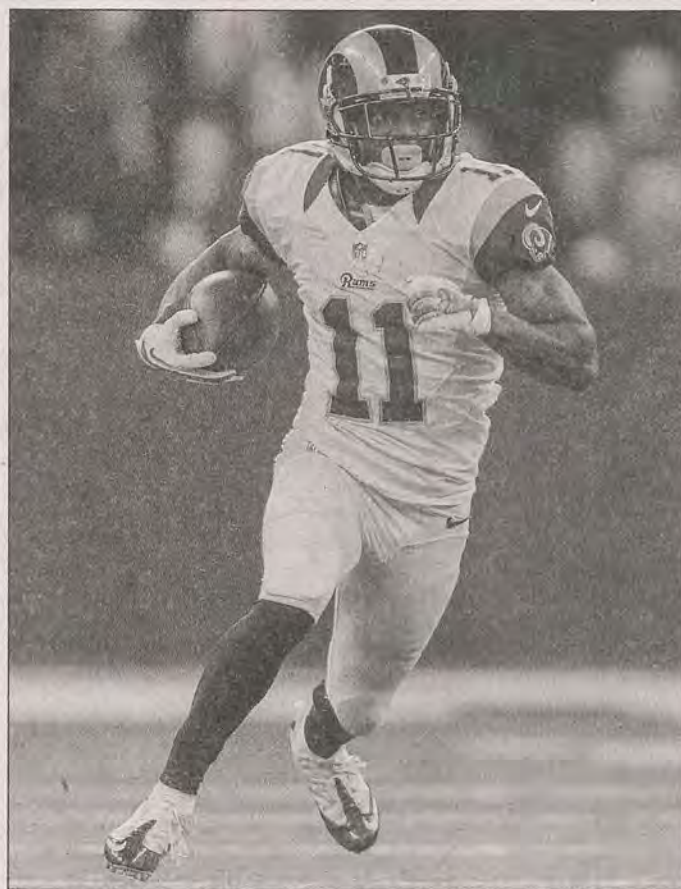
RUNNING BACK. The Rams weren't looking for a running back in the draft, but when Tre Mason was still available early in the third round, they couldn't help themselves. Now they have an above-average pair of backs.

Zac Stacy should be the starter. They drafted him in the fifth round last year, and he exceeded all expectations. The Rams averaged only 47 rushing yards in their first four games. After they promoted Stacy, they averaged 130 in their final 12.

Stacy isn't particularly fast or dynamic; he averaged only 3.9 yards per attempt as a rookie. But he's built low to the ground and hits holes decisively. He averaged 81 rushing yards as a starter last year, with 8 TDs, and he was very good in short-yardage situations, converting 75 percent of his carries when the team needed 1 yard for a touchdown or to keep a drive alive. He should be their goal-line back.

Stacy isn't a good pass catcher. He caught only 26 passes in the 12 games he started, and he averaged only 5.4 yards per reception, next-to-last among running backs. There should be some improvement, but he will finish with below-average receiving numbers.

The bigger concern, however, is workload. As a rookie, Stacy aver-



Tavon Austin didn't offer enough after-the-catch sizzle as a rookie, averaging only 10.4 yards per reception.

aged a league-high 21 carries per game. Now that they've got Mason, he easily could slip to 15 carries per game. Jeff Fisher isn't opposed to using Stacy in a workhorse role, but this could disintegrate in a committee.

Mason is 10 pounds lighter, but he's more explosive. He cuts well and is almost a tenth of a second faster (he ran a 4.47 at the combine). They'll probably work him in for some carries off the bench, hoping for some big plays, and he'll play more or less as the season wears on, based on his effectiveness.

Mason catches the ball well, but he won't necessarily play much on third downs. He doesn't seem to be up to code in pass protection, and the Rams don't want Sam Bradford getting hurt again – better to use a lesser pass catcher who can pick up blitzes.

The Rams also have Benny Cunningham, but he's probably just a third-stringer. He doesn't have enough ability. Setting aside one big game against Chicago's historically bad run defense, Cunningham averaged only 3.0 yards per carry last year.

RECEIVER. The Rams have the deepest receiving corps in the league. Trouble is, while there are plenty of potential contributors, none of them are quite good enough. Probably no receiver on this team will reach 800 yards or score 7 TDs.

Tavon Austin was the 8th choice of last year's draft, but the Rams would love to have that pick back. They tried to use him as a slot receiver, but Austin averaged only 10.4 yards per catch – he's not making people miss after the catch. His hands aren't great, and at 5-foot-8 and 174 pounds, he'll likely be the smallest starting receiver in the league.

Austin isn't a bust, and the Rams aren't giving up on him. He scored on a punt return last year, and had another return touchdown negated by a

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Sam Bradford	262	159	60.7	1687	14	4	15	90.9
Kellen Clemens	242	142	58.7	1673	8	7	21	78.8
Rams	506	301	59.5	3360	22	11	36	84.8
Opponents	521	355	68.1	4200	21	14	53	94.7
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Zac Stacy	250	973	3.9	7	--	--	--	--
Benny Cunningham	47	261	5.6	1	--	--	--	--
Daryl Richardson	69	215	3.1	0	475	0	--	--
Rams	426	1752	4.1	10	1714	5	1667	7
Opponents	440	1646	3.7	18	1880	18	2433	17
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Jared Cook	51	671	13.2	47	5	44	523	4
Chris Givens	34	569	16.7	47	0	42	698	3
Tavon Austin	40	418	10.4	81	4	--	--	--
Austin Pettis	38	399	10.5	31	4	30	261	4
Brian Quick	18	302	16.8	73	2	11	156	2
Lance Kendricks	32	258	8.1	21	4	42	519	4
Zac Stacy	26	141	5.4	25	1	--	--	--
Rams	301	3360	11.2	81	22	332	3783	22
Opponents	355	4200	11.8	81	21	362	3927	16
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Greg Zuerlein	34-34	26-28	8-9	1-2	112	95	--	--
Opponents	42-42	18-26	3-3	1-5	96	126	137	134

KICKER. Greg Zuerlein probably has the strongest leg in the league. A league-high 96 percent of his kickoffs reached the end zone last year, and he's hit 3 field goals from 56-plus yards. Based in a dome, he's sure to hit some longer-range kicks.

But St. Louis hasn't given him enough opportunities thus far; over the last two years, only two teams have scored fewer kicking points. And he also hasn't fully harnessed that legendary power. He's hit only 8 of 15 field goals from 50-plus yards, ranking 22nd among the 30 who've attempted at least 10 from that range. With the league overcrowded with good kickers, we're flagging him as just a middle-of-the-pack option.

penalty. He scored a 65-yard touchdown on an end-around. And he caught 2 long TDs at Indianapolis. But Austin doesn't seem to have the hands or toughness of the great slot receivers like Julian Edelman and Wes Welker.

Chris Givens will have a role, but he's a one-trick pony – a field-stretching deep threat. He doesn't have the hands or route-running ability to handle the shorter routes. He didn't catch any of the 5 passes they threw him inside the 10 last year, and he made it through the entire season without catching a touchdown.

The Rams might get lucky with Kenny Britt. He looked like an emerging star in the 2010-11 seasons, averaging 97 yards in the 11 games he started, with 12 touchdowns. But Britt tore his ACL and hasn't been the same guy since; the Titans gave up on him last year.

If Britt is right physically, he could emerge as the best receiver on this roster. With his size (6-3, 215), he could be their main option inside the 10. But Britt has been a nightmare off the field, and the Rams have enough other receivers that it's not even certain Britt will make the team.

The Rams have selected three other receivers with second- and third-round picks since 2011 – Brian Quick, Austin Pettis and Stedman Bailey. If they had confidence that any of these guys were going to develop, they probably wouldn't have signed Britt. When Bradford was playing, Pettis was the big receiver they were featuring around the goal line; he caught 4 TDs in those seven games. But Pettis caught only 13 passes, with no touchdowns, in the final nine games.

Bailey came on late in the year, catching 15 passes in the final five games, with a 27-yard touchdown run, but he's down for the first four games for violating the rules against performance-enhancing drugs. Quick has caught only 29 passes in two years; it might be time to pull the plug on him.

The Rams will use two tight ends, and they'll probably both catch 3-5 TDs. Jared Cook has great speed but isn't savvy enough as a route runner, and he doesn't have great hands – he doesn't make the tough catches in traffic. After a huge opener against Arizona, he averaged only 35 yards in his final 15 games, with 3 TDs. Pretty similar to what he used to do for the Titans.

Lance Kendricks used to be a pass-catching tight end. But now that they've got Cook, he's been re-cast as more of a blocker. He caught only 32 passes last year, and most were of the dumpoff variety.

	Ariz. 27-24	at Atl. 24-31	at Dall. 7-31	S.F. 11-35	Jac. 34-20	at Hou. 38-13	at Car. 15-30	Sea. 9-14	Tenn. 21-28	at Ind. 38-8	Chi. 42-21	at S.F. 13-23	at Ariz. 10-30	N.O. 27-16	T.B. 23-13	at Sea. 9-27
QB Bradford (run stats)	27-38-1-299 2-1 2-pt run, 13, 1	32-55-1-352 3-25 6, 3, 10	29-48-0-240 0-0 4	19-41-1-202 3-(-4) 6	19-34-0-222 5-4 16, 4, 31	12-16-0-117 1-4 2, 2, 4	21-30-1-255 1-1 4	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
QB Clemens (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	2-4-0-19 0-0	15-31-2-158 2-11	20-35-0-210 1-16 10	9-16-0-247 3-2 57, 81	10-22-0-167 3-(-3) 2-pt, 6	19-37-1-218 3-21 3	16-27-2-181 2-10	14-20-0-158 3-5 31, 4	16-20-0-158 4-0	21-30-2-1157 2-2 2
RB Stacy (rec stats)	1-4 0-0	DNP	DNP	0-0 0-0	14-78 0-0	18-79 2-11	17-53 4-34 4 rec	26-134 1-(-5)	27-127 6-51 3, 9	26-62 2-6 1	12-87 1-10 1	19-72 1-(-1)	14-25 3-(-3) 1	26-133 1-10 40	33-104 1-5 1	15-15 4-23
RB Richardson (rec stats)	20-63 5-33	10-35 5-45	0-0 0-0	12-16 1-8	13-48 0-0	3-5 1-18	3-9 1-9	8-39 1-8	DNP foot	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
WR Austin	6-41	6-47 6, 10	6-30	2-6	3-32	1-3	5-39	2-9	0-0	2-138 98 punt, 57, 81	2-39 65 run	4-25	1-9	DNP ankle	DNP ankle	DNP ankle
WR Pettis	3-16	8-78 3	2-20 4	5-59	4-49 4, 31	1-12	2-17	2-33	1-13	0-0	0-0	1-11	1-19	4-41	2-16	2-15
TE Cook	7-141 13, 1	1-10	5-44	4-45	3-26	2-45	4-33	3-31	3-36 10	1-17	4-80 6	3-49	3-49	1-8	2-27	5-30 2
TE Kendricks	3-25	2-23	5-36	1-6 6	4-37 16	1-2 2	2-7	2-23	3-13	DNP hand	0-0	0-0	1-15	2-13 4	1-4	5-54
K Zuerlein	36, 25, 38, 48	29		40	32, 37	42	28, 42	33, 28, 27 miss: 50	miss: 44	32	29, 40	43, 34	44	31, 35	54, 25, 48	36
Others				Cunningham 2-pt 82 INT ret	Harkey 2 rec Quick 4 rec 11 fumble, 98 INT	safety				45 fumble ret Cunningham 9 run Peard 2-pt rec	Quick 3 rec			Harkey 31 rec Bailey 27 run		

San Diego Chargers

San Diego's offense should be a little different, with more running and less passing. That's what worked late last year, when the team went on a run to capture the AFC's final wild-card spot. Not that Philip Rivers won't have some big games, but he's more effective when supported by a strong rushing game.

Consider the numbers from last year. In their first eight games, the Chargers averaged 309 passing yards and just 104 rushing yards. In their final eight, their passing yards decreased by 58, while their rushing yards improved by 38. A strong running game makes things easier on Rivers, and it also helps the defense – San Diego led the league in time of possession.

Ken Whisenhunt took the head coaching job in Tennessee; he might be missed. But the Chargers think Frank Reich is ready to handle the offensive coordinator gig, and Mike McCoy is heavily involved in the offense anyway. San Diego has a good chance to rank in the top 10 in yards and touchdowns.

QUARTERBACK. It's rare for a rookie coach to step in and put together a top-flight offense, but it happened in three cities last year. Chip Kelly and Marc Trestman are great, but Mike McCoy is right with those guys. Hard to believe what he did with Philip Rivers last season.

A year ago at this time, recall, the question was how much longer Rivers might last – whether his passes were losing zip. He fumbled a league-high 15 times in 2012. The previous season, he tossed a career-worst 20 interceptions.

McCoy got Rivers back on track by reworking the playbook to include more quick passes. An improved offensive line and running game also helped. Sacks dropped by almost 40 percent, and the interceptions and fumbles went away.

Used properly, Rivers can dissect a defense. He completed a league-high 69 percent of his passes, with 32 touchdowns versus only 11 interceptions. The Chargers converted a league-high 49 percent of their third downs (better than even the Broncos).

Rivers probably will be a top-10 passer. Our only quibble is that it looks like the Chargers will try to be more balanced. Including the playoffs, he averaged only 235 passing yards in his final 10 games last year, with 18 TDs. His numbers were bloated at the start of the season by three games over 400 yards (all against bad secondaries).

The schedule is noticeably harder, and Rivers would have declined some anyway. We're expecting something like 255 yards per game and about 29 TDs. He's not a runner, which works against him – just one touchdown in his last 80 games.

Backup Kellen Clemens has no value. In the unlikely event he plays, it would be in a game-manager role. In nine starts with the Rams last year, Clemens averaged only 184 passing yards, with 8 TDs and 7 interceptions.

RUNNING BACK. The Chargers ranked 13th in rushing last year, but they did so despite having an immobile quarterback. Looking at just running backs, only three teams ran for more yards than San Diego. And it's a team that got better – 142 rushing yards per game in the second half of the season. This might be a top-5 running game.

Ryan Mathews is the starter. He's been inconsistent for most of his first four years, but he looked very solid in the second half of last year, averaging 97 yards in his final eight starts. At 220 pounds, he's got a nice blend of power and speed.

Mathews is 26, and it looks like he's a better back now than earlier in his career. He fumbled 5 times in each of his first two seasons, but he fumbled only twice last year. Perhaps because of better training, he also was able to play in all 16 games for the first time.

Mathews probably won't be used as extensively this season; the Chargers will work in other backs. But he'll be their main guy, and he also should be incorporated more into the passing attack. He caught only 26 passes last year, but 19 of those came in the second half of the season. If he can stay healthy, 1,500-plus yards and 9 TDs looks possible.

Danny Woodhead will see change-of-pace work, but his role should



ANDREW WEBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

The Chargers used Ryan Mathews more in the second half of the season – as a runner and as a pass catcher.

decrease. Woodhead caught 76 passes last year, but they started using him less when they went to more of a run-oriented system; including the playoffs, he caught only 32 passes in the final 10 games of the season.

Woodhead won't be a big factor as a runner (he ran for only 429 yards last year) but they may use him plenty around the goal line. He was their most-targeted player inside the 10 last year, helping him score 9 TDs (and 5 of those came in those final 10 games, when he was playing less). About 50 catches, 800 total yards and 6 TDs seems reasonable.

The Chargers signed Donald Brown, and that looks like a solid pickup. He potentially could step in for either Mathews or Woodhead, and the contracts for both of those players expire at the end of the year. He also gives them another change-of-pace option to work in, keeping everyone healthier.

If Mathews gets hurt, it will be Brown that would start, and there probably wouldn't be any dropoff. He outplayed Trent Richardson last year, averaging 5.3 yards per attempt. Brown has more big-play ability than any of San Diego's other backs and also has played four straight years without fumbling.

RECEIVER. The Chargers have some viable pass catchers, but none that jump out as fantasy priorities. Keeping in mind that San Diego averaged 58 fewer passing yards in the second half of last season (when it went to more of a run-oriented offense) our expectation is that most of these receivers will be drafted too early.

This includes Keenan Allen. He was great as a rookie, catching 71 passes and 8 TDs. He caught 68 percent of the passes they threw to him last year, 2nd-best among all wide receivers with 100 attempts. He's the clear No. 1 receiver on this roster.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Philip Rivers	544	378	69.5	4478	32	11	30	105.5
Opponents	548	364	66.4	4387	23	11	35	96.4
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Ryan Mathews	285	1255	4.4	6	707	1	1091	6
Danny Woodhead	106	429	4.0	2	301	4	351	1
Chargers	486	1965	4.0	9	1461	4	1864	16
Opponents	376	1725	4.6	14	1542	10	1955	8
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Keenan Allen	71	1046	14.7	43	8	--	--	--
Antonio Gates	77	872	11.3	56	4	49	538	7
Eddie Royal	47	631	13.4	54	8	23	234	1
Danny Woodhead	76	605	8.0	39	6	40	446	3
Vincent Brown	41	472	11.5	51	1	--	--	--
Ladarius Green	17	376	22.1	60	3	4	56	0
Ryan Mathews	26	189	7.3	17	1	39	252	0
Chargers	378	4478	11.8	60	32	338	3606	26
Opponents	364	4387	12.1	74	23	347	3925	28
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Nick Novak	42-42	34-37	9-9	2-2	144	87	122	0
Chargers	42-42	34-37	9-9	2-2	144	114	128	129
Opponents	39-39	23-30	8-11	3-6	108	96	115	84

But as well as Allen played last year, he'll probably be one of the first 10-15 receivers selected in fantasy drafts, and that might be too high. Physically he's nothing special – he doesn't create matchup problems with size or speed. And history shows that when a receiver has a great rookie year, the tendency is for a decline the next season. That may seem weird, but go look at the sophomore numbers for guys like Lee Evans, Eddie Royal and Michael Clayton.

Ladarius Green is another promising youngster who could be drafted too early. On the one hand, he's got unusual speed for a tight end. He caught only 17 passes last year, but they averaged 22.1 yards, the best by any tight end in the last 20 years. He's an intriguing guy.

But at 240 pounds, Green doesn't block well enough to be used as a traditional tight end. And while he's shown the ability to get downfield, he'll put up good stats only if they start using him in the red zone. They didn't throw him a single pass inside the 10 last year until Green (lined up as a wide receiver) caught a 4-yard touchdown on a fade route in the playoffs.

Antonio Gates doesn't have it anymore. At 34, he's lost too much speed. The Chargers started phasing him out last year. In his final 10 games (including the playoffs) he caught only 32 passes for 337 yards and 2 TDs. We're not sure Gates will even make the team; he's due \$5 million, and he's not worth that much.

Eddie Royal should be San Diego's 2nd-best wide receiver. He's a slot-type receiver with a nice feel for working the middle of the field. But Royal doesn't offer much upside. He doesn't make many downfield catches, and he finished last year with only 47 catches for 631 yards. He caught 8 TDs, but only 3 in his final 15 games including the playoffs.

The sleeper in this group is Malcom Floyd. He was their go-to receiver, after all, at the start of last year. Then he suffered a career-threatening neck injury in Week 2, clearing the way for Allen to move up. He's been cleared to return, and he could have value as a field-stretcher outside. Maybe he and Allen start, with Royal working the slot off the bench.

Vincent Brown shouldn't be a factor. He could be bounced by Floyd, and at best he'll be their third-best receiver. Brown was pri-

marily a decoy last season, catching a few short passes per game, and he hardly even got on the field in the playoffs. He's gone 17 games in a row without scoring a touchdown.

KICKER. Nick Novak works with a good offense, and he's one of the more accurate kickers around. He's hit 52 of his last 57 field goals, with two of the misses from 54 and 55 yards, and another pair blocked. Only four kickers have been more accurate over the last two years.

His only flaw, it seems, is his range. Longer field goals are more difficult for him, and his kickoffs aren't very good. He had a league-low 18 touchbacks last year. But working with one of the league's best offenses, he'll almost certainly finish the season as an above-average kicker.

	Hou. 28-31	at Phil. 33-30	at Tenn. 17-20	Dall. 30-21	at Oak. 17-27	Ind. 19-9	at Jac. 24-6	at Wash. 24-30(ot)	Den. 20-28	at Mia. 16-20	at K.C. 41-38	Cin. 10-17	NYG 37-14	at Den. 27-20	Oak. 26-13	K.C. 27-24(ot)
QB Rivers (run stats)	14-29-1-195 1-18 14,6,10,1	36-47-0-419 3-11 11,24,15	20-24-0-184 0-0 7	35-42-1-401 0-0 26,13,56	35-48-3-411 0-0 7,5	22-33-0-237 1-(-1) 22	22-26-0-285 2-4 27	29-46-2-341 2-14 15,16	19-29-0-218 5-7 7	22-34-1-297 2-6 5	27-39-0-392 1-1 11,60,26	23-37-1-252 1-4 30	21-28-0-249 0-0 43,4,6	12-20-0-166 3-9 19,10	19-29-1-201 4-(-3) 4	22-33-1-229 3-2 22,4,6
RB Mathews (rec stats)	13-33 2-22 14 rec	16-73 1-3	16-58 0-0	19-62 4-41	3-8 0-0	22-102 0-0	21-110 0-0 3	7-34 0-0	14-59 1-2 1	19-127 2-16	14-55 2-10 1	14-61 5-31	29-103 3-32 1	29-127 1-1 23	25-99 3-20 7	24-144 2-11
RB Woodhead (rec stats)	0-0 2-16	9-27 8-37	5-31 7-55	5-32 5-54 13,26 recs	9-17 9-58 5 rec	9-36 5-47	9-29 4-47 2	7-21 9-77	6-27 4-17 7 rec	5-21 2-16	6-25 4-45 11 rec,3	7-22 2-13	7-42 4-52 6 rec	9-29 1-13	8-52 3-16	5-18 7-42
WR Allen	DNP	2-34	1-(-4)	5-80	6-115 7	9-107 22	3-67	8-128 16	4-41	3-45	9-124	8-106	3-59 43,4	2-29 19,10	3-26 4	5-89
WR Royal	3-24 6,1	7-90 11,24,15	2-34	3-42	3-26	0-0	4-69 27	4-56 15	2-36	2-20	4-87	DNP	3-13	3-46	4-54	3-34 6
WR V.Brown	2-13 10	4-26	2-11	7-41	7-117	2-31	2-26	1-17	3-35	2-17	0-0	1-16	3-30	3-54	2-38	0-0
TE Gates	2-49	8-124	5-55 7	10-136 56	7-74	4-28	6-31	6-53	4-62	4-52 5	3-21	5-41	4-50	2-23	3-42	4-31 4
TE L.Green	0-0	0-0	2-48	0-0	0-0	1-25	2-40	1-10	1-25	4-81	3-80 60	2-45 30	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-22 22
K Novak	-	49,44,33,46	44 miss: 38	36,42,23	35 miss: 37	31,33,34,50	20	19	26,40 miss: 37	27,50,29	30,30	48	36,27,43	38,35	27,48,28,33	22,36
Others			R.Brown 1 run					interception in end zone			Ajirrotutu 26 rec					

San Francisco 49ers

The 49ers have made it to at least the NFC Championship three times in a row, but that run should end this year. Too many issues with too many key parts. They're also in the NFC West, meaning they'll play one of the toughest schedules.

The troubles begin at the top, where Jim Harbaugh and general manager Trent Baalke don't get along; reportedly, the 49ers considered trading Harbaugh to Cleveland in the offseason. The defense won't be as good. Aldon Smith can't seem to stay out of trouble, and NaVorro Bowman is trying to come back from a devastating knee injury.

The offense hasn't been hit as hard, but Frank Gore and Anquan Boldin are nearing the end of the road. San Francisco will put up above-average numbers, but it won't rank up with the elite offenses.

QUARTERBACK. Colin Kaepernick isn't an elite fantasy quarterback. His passing numbers will be below average, and he doesn't run as often as you might think.

We recognize that Kaepernick played most of last year without Michael Crabtree. We also realize he's better than most at gunning the ball downfield for big completions. He's averaged over 13 yards per completion in back-to-back seasons, which has been done by only three other quarterbacks in the last 10 years. With experience, he'll continue to get better.

But the 49ers have a run-oriented offense; they attempted a league-low 26 passes per game last year. And Kaepernick has some issues with reading defenses. Too often it looks like he doesn't know where to go with the ball. He completed only 58 percent last year, and only six regular starters were sacked more often.

It added up to an average of only 200 passing yards last year, with only 21 TD passes. Only the Bucs threw for fewer yards. With more experience and a better receiving corps, Kaepernick will be a notch better, but hard to envision him getting up to average. NFL teams averaged 25 TD passes last year, with 252 yards per game.

Kaepernick is an unusually good runner. Two years in a row, he's run for 130-plus yards in a playoff game. But the 49ers are cautious about exposing their quarterback to too many hits in the regular season. He's averaged under 6 carries per game in his 23 career starts, with 6 TDs. He'll run for maybe 500 yards and 4 TDs, but he maybe not enough to get him into the top 10 overall at his position.

The 49ers hope Blaine Gabbert can handle the backup job, but he was a disaster in Jacksonville, going 5-22 as a starter. Jim Harbaugh and his staff have been among the best at developing quarterbacks, but they weren't able to do much with Colt McCoy last year.

RUNNING BACK. We're not big believers in the theory that you don't select 30-year-old running backs. In the last 15 seasons, 15 of them have gone over 1,000 yards, including Frank Gore last year.

But Gore is 31, and it's rare to see elite production at that age. Of the 238 running backs reaching 1,000 yards in this century, only seven (3 percent) were 31-year-olds. It's time for the 49ers to start rotating in other backs more, and they'll probably have to plug in a new starter at some point this year.

Second-rounder Carlos Hyde is the heir apparent. The 49ers also have Marcus Lattimore, and he's healthy after sitting out all of last season, but Hyde would probably be better even if Lattimore had never injured either of his ACLs. Hyde runs with the same kind of bruising style as Gore, only he's 8 years younger and 15 pounds heavier.

Hyde was remarkably productive at Ohio State last year. In 11 games last year, he scored 18 touchdowns and ran for 1,521 yards, averaging 7.3 yards per attempt. They'll probably start him off in a change-of-pace role, and when he keeps outperforming Gore, they'll have no choice but to increase his workload.

Early in his career, Lattimore was heralded as maybe another Adrian Peterson, but he was never going to be a first-round pick. He



ERIC TAPIA/ICON SM

San Francisco has a healthier, better receiving corps, which should help Colin Kaepernick's production.

doesn't have enough wiggle, and he never had that kind of speed. Post-surgery, he's probably running 4.6 tops. They'll probably work him in for a few touches, but in this crowded backfield he might not even be one of their top 3.

The 49ers also have Kendall Hunter and LaMichael James. But they're both smaller, quicker backs, and now that the backfield has been bolstered, neither will be more than a spot-duty player. James probably won't even make the team. Hunter has averaged a half yard more per carry than Gore two years in a row, but he's not built for more than 10 touches per game.

Gore is still the starter, but the 49ers say they won't use him as much as in the past. He won't be a factor in the passing game. Not that Gore can't catch, but since Jim Harbaugh showed up, the team's running backs have caught the fewest passes in the league. With receiving factored in, 18 running backs averaged more yards than Gore last year.

Gore is a good goal-line runner, but he's not the only player San Francisco will use in that part of the field. Three years in a row, he's scored about half of their rushing touchdowns – 25 of 49 overall. Best-case for Gore, it seems, is about 1,000 total yards and 8 TDs.

RECEIVER. The 49ers won't put up big passing numbers, and there isn't much difference between their top 3: Vernon Davis, Anquan Boldin and Michael Crabtree. That will make it tough for any of them to put up elite numbers.

Davis is a tight end, but in San Francisco's offense, he operates more like a big-play wide receiver. He doesn't catch many passes

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Colin Kaepernick	416	243	58.4	3197	21	8	39	91.6
49ers	417	244	58.5	3210	21	8	39	91.7
Opponents	585	345	59.0	3819	19	18	38	76.4
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Frank Gore	276	1128	4.1	9	1214	8	1211	8
Colin Kaepernick	92	524	5.7	4	415	5	-2	0
Kendall Hunter	78	358	4.6	3	371	2	473	2
49ers	505	2201	4.4	18	2491	17	2044	14
Opponents	397	1535	3.9	11	1507	7	1236	3
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Anquan Boldin	85	1179	13.9	63	7	65	921	4
Vernon Davis	52	850	16.3	64	13	41	548	5
Michael Crabtree	19	284	14.9	60	1	85	1105	9
Bruce Miller	25	243	9.7	43	0	12	84	0
49ers	244	3210	13.2	64	21	289	3551	23
Opponents	345	3819	11.1	75	19	337	3473	19
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Phil Dawson	44-44	32-36	10-11	4-6	140	116	92	97
49ers	44-44	32-36	10-11	4-6	140	131	166	99
Opponents	28-28	20-25	8-11	1-2	88	93	87	120

– just 41 and 52 the last two years – but they're always plotting to spring him deep. He averaged 16.3 yards per catch last year, including 3 TDs from over 50 yards.

It's how the 49ers use Davis around the end zone, however, that makes him a valuable commodity. Inside the 5 over the last three years, he's caught 9 of the 10 passes they've thrown to him, all for touchdowns. The rest of the team combined has caught only 6 of 23 passes in that area in same span. Davis won't finish with as many catches or yards as the wide receivers, but he'll probably outscore them.

Crabtree, we think, will finish with the most yards. He missed most of last year, but had a great chemistry with Colin Kaepernick back in 2012, averaging 88 yards in their 10 games together, with 7 TDs. Crabtree flashed that same kind of potential late last season, going over 100 yards in two of his final four games.

This passing game is built around vertical throws, and while Crabtree isn't a burner, he's definitely faster than Boldin. He's also seven years younger. Not a lot of difference between these guys, but our leaning is Crabtree's overall numbers will be slightly better.

Boldin carried the passing game last year, accounting for 35 percent of the team's catches – 2nd-highest by anyone in the last eight years. Even though opponents knew the ball was coming to him, they couldn't stop him. He caught 66 percent of the passes thrown his way, 7th-best of the 37 wide receivers with at least 100 targets.

Boldin will be 34 in October, and his physical style of play makes him more likely to break down. He's played all 16 games only three times in 10 years. He also should be used less now that Crabtree is back, but that wasn't the case last year. Boldin actually put up better numbers after Crabtree returned – 49 catches for 682 yards and 3 TDs in eight games.

The 49ers traded a fourth-round pick for Stevie Johnson, and that was strange. He's got a big contract, and he's not fast enough. When they have Johnson, Crabtree and Boldin out there, they don't have a receiver who can take the top off a defense. And they've never used many three-receiver sets anyway. Johnson could be an insurance policy. Boldin is always a candidate to break down, and Crabtree is in the final year of his contract.

The sleeper is Quinton Patton, their fourth-round pick last year. He looked like their quickest receiver in the preseason last August. They

like him enough that they didn't put him on injured reserve last year, even when he missed 10 games with a broken foot. With his after-the-catch ability, he'd probably be better in the slot than Johnson.

KICKER. At 39, Phil Dawson likely will be the 2nd-oldest kicker in the league (behind Adam Vinatieri), but he doesn't seem to be falling off at all. He's great on pressure kicks, and he doesn't seem to be losing any range. He's hit 18 of 21 kicks from 50-plus yards over the last three years, and one of the misses was from 71.

He's also coupled with one of the most kicker-friendly offenses in league history. Since Jim Harbaugh showed up, in three years the 49ers have attempted 130 field goals – 17 more than any other team. Kickers scoring 125 points are easy to find nowadays, but Dawson is one of the few with a realistic chance of going for 140-plus.

	G.B. 34-28	at Sea. 3-29	Ind. 7-27	at St.L. 35-11	Hou. 34-3	Ariz. 32-20	at Tenn. 31-17	Jac.(U.K.) 42-10	Car. 9-10	at N.O. 20-23	at Wash. 27-6	St.L. 23-13	Sea. 19-17	at T.B. 33-14	Atl. 34-24	at Ariz. 23-20
QB Kaepernick (run stats)	27-39-0-412 7-22 20,2,10	13-28-3-127 9-87	13-27-1-150 7-20	15-23-0-167 3-11 20,12	6-15-0-113 1-14 64	16-29-1-252 4-18 61,35	13-21-0-199 11-68 20 run	10-18-0-164 7-54 12,9 runs,2	11-22-1-91 4-16	17-31-1-127 3-25 11,17	15-24-0-235 9-20 19,6,1	19-28-0-275 4-21 17	15-29-1-175 9-31 8	19-29-0-203 4-42 4,52	13-21-0-197 6-51 4 run,10	21-34-0-310 4-24 4,3
RB Gore (rec stats)	21-44 2-21 1	9-16 1-14	11-82 2-21	20-153 0-0 34	17-81 0-0 1	25-101 0-0	24-70 2-34 1,1	19-71 1-6 19,2	16-82 2-21	13-48 2-8	13-31 1-3	15-42 2-7 3	17-110 0-0	22-86 0-0	21-97 1-6 1	13-14 0-0
RB Hunter (rec stats)	6-24 0-0	1-(-7) 0-0	4-14 1-4 13	11-49 1-9 29	5-29 0-0	3-11 0-0 6	4-6 0-0	9-84 0-0	3-8 0-0	4-1 0-0	8-12 0-0	3-7 0-0	4-16 0-0	8-40 0-0 2 fumble ret	3-51 0-0	2-13 0-0
WR Boldin	13-208 10	1-7	5-67	5-90 20	2-21	3-28	5-74	4-66	3-23	6-56 11	5-94 19,6	9-98	6-93	3-43	6-72 10	9-149 4
WR Crabtree	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	DNP Achilles	2-68	4-40	5-45 4	5-102	3-29
WR Patton	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	DNP foot	0-0	2-34
TE V.Davis	6-98 20,2	3-20	DNP hamstring	2-18 12	3-88 64	8-180 61,35	4-62	3-52 2	1-2	4-33 17	4-70 1	4-82 17	2-21 8	5-79 52	0-0	3-45 3
K Dawson	27,33 miss: 48	21	-	miss: 53,71	38,24	35,26,44	44	-	52,43,25	55,29	29,49	32,43,24	23,48,52,22	47,43,21,35	49,30	27,56,40 miss: 24
Others				Dixon 1 run Dixon 2 run	18 INT return safety	fumble rec in end zone	47 fumble ret								89 INT return	

Seattle Seahawks

Defense wins championships, but that doesn't apply in fantasy leagues. Seattle has allowed the fewest points in the league two years in a row, but that works against this offense putting up good numbers.

In this era of spread offenses, hurry-up systems and pinball statistics, Seattle is a throwback. While offenses like Denver and Philadelphia are trying to squeeze more plays into games, the Seahawks are one of the few that's taken the opposite approach. They want to make their defense even better by working the clock and shortening games.

No team has run the ball on a higher percentage of plays over the last two years. Draining the life out of games, Seattle ranked only 29th in offensive plays last year — 11 teams ran at least 100 more. At about 5 yards per play, that's roughly 500 yards (and the corresponding scoring) that simply disappear. We expect the Seahawks will be only above-average offensively.

QUARTERBACK. Russell Wilson is the real deal. If they did a do-over with the 2012 draft, he'd probably be the No. 2 overall pick behind Andrew Luck. For fantasy purposes, however, Wilson looks like a good, but not great, prospect.

There's some playmaking ability. Wilson has thrown 26 touchdowns two years in a row. He's good in clutch situations, and he's one of the better downfield passers; he averaged 13.1 yards per completion last year, 4th-best in the league. He'll probably wind up in the top 10 in touchdowns.

But Wilson doesn't pass often enough, so the overall production isn't there. Two years in a row he's had a passer rating over 100, but Seattle has ranked only 29th and 26th in passing. Wilson averaged only 210 yards per game last year.

Wilson is more experienced and capable now, so perhaps they'll let him throw more. But in today's wide-open game, teams are averaging over 250 yards per week; tough to envision Wilson coming within 20 yards of that kind of production.

Wilson has good mobility. He's averaged 514 rushing yards his first two seasons. But that production should decline. Wilson tends to scramble not to pick up yards but to buy time to throw, and the Seahawks don't want to expose him to any additional punishment. Wilson ran for only one touchdown in 19 games last year.

Fuse the various numbers together, and Wilson looks like only an above-average quarterback. At best, Wilson sneaks into the top 10.

Terrelle Pryor should be the backup. Physically, he's similar to Colin Kaepernick; his arm isn't quite as good, but he's even better as a runner. That kind of style might mesh nicely with this offense. If Pryor is slow to develop, the Seahawks will stick with Tarvaris Jackson as their No. 2.

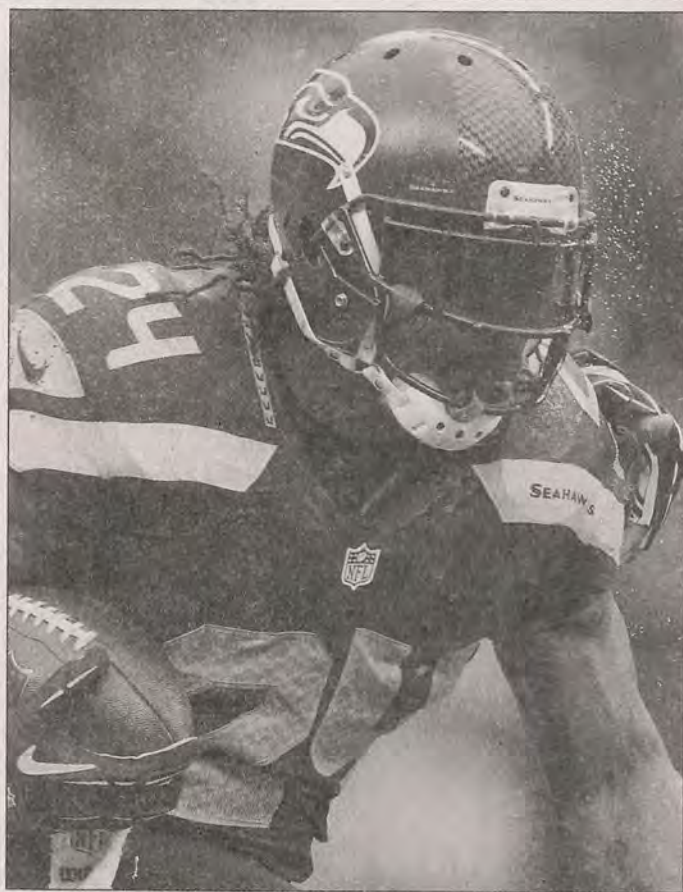
RUNNING BACK. Everyone can see that Marshawn Lynch is one of the league's best and most physical runners. It's more compelling to move down one spot on the depth chart: will it be Robert Turbin or Christine Michael who potentially fills in for some starts at some point?

Turbin held the job last year, and he looks like an above-average backup. He's a 222-pound banger who runs with a mean streak, and he knows the offense better than Michael. He's more reliable on passing downs as both a receiver and in protection.

But while Turbin beat out Michael last year, he had a disappointing season. He averaged only 3.4 yards per carry (a yard lower than as a rookie). And they scaled back his use on passing downs. He caught 11 fewer passes, while Lynch caught 13 more.

Michael hardly played as a rookie, but he's more dynamic. He's about the same size, but has a lot more speed and elusiveness. The Seahawks wouldn't have selected him in the second round unless they felt there was a good chance he'd develop into Lynch's eventual successor.

Michael almost won the backup job last year. He averaged 5.0 yards per carry in the preseason, leading the team with 201 yards. Now that he's been around for a year, Michael should edge past Turbin. Either one of these backs should put up top-10 numbers if given the opportunity to start.



JOE NICHOLSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

In part because of offensive line problems, Marshawn Lynch ran for 20 fewer yards per game last season.

With Lynch, the possibility he'll miss some games is a concern. With his aggressive running style, he exposes himself to a lot of punishment, and he's on the back end of his career. He's also more likely than other players to potentially be suspended by the league. He pleaded guilty to a reckless driving charge in the spring, with police saying he had a .08 blood-alcohol level. That might get the attention of the league.

Lynch also won't play quite as much. The Seahawks say they'd like to spell him more. He's averaged 80 rushing yards per game since 2011, with 39 TDs. He's below-average as a receiver, but only six backs have averaged more total yards over the last three years, and only three have averaged more touchdowns.

Lynch's yards-per-carry dropped from 5.0 to 4.2 last year, and he ran for 333 fewer yards, but it's probably premature to worry too much about him slowing down. The Seahawks had a lot of offensive line injuries last year, with both of their tackles missing half of the season. No reason he can't put up about 1,500 combined yards and 12 TDs.

RECEIVER. Strange to say, but the defending Super Bowl champions almost certainly won't have a big-time receiver. They don't pass the ball enough, and they tend to spread things around. Of the 89 players who saw at least 5 passes inside the 10 last year, for example, none of them played for Seattle.

Percy Harvin should be the No. 1. He's got special speed, and he contributes as more than just a pass catcher. In his four seasons with Minnesota, he scored 9 non-receiving touchdowns, running for 96-plus yards every year and scoring on a kickoff return every

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Russell Wilson	407	257	63.1	3357	26	9	44	101.2
Opponents	524	309	59.0	3050	16	28	44	63.4
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Marshawn Lynch	301	1257	4.2	12	1590	11	1204	12
Russell Wilson	96	539	5.6	1	489	4	--	--
Robert Turbin	77	264	3.4	0	354	0	--	--
Seahawks	509	2188	4.3	14	2579	16	1756	15
Opponents	422	1626	3.9	4	1649	8	1797	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Golden Tate	64	898	14.0	80	5	45	688	7
Doug Baldwin	50	778	15.6	52	5	29	366	3
Zach Miller	33	387	11.7	60	5	38	396	3
Jermaine Kearse	22	346	15.7	43	4	3	31	0
Marshawn Lynch	36	316	8.8	55	2	23	196	1
Luke Willson	20	272	13.6	39	1	--	--	--
Sidney Rice	15	231	15.4	31	3	50	748	7
Seahawks	267	3508	13.1	80	27	259	3234	27
Opponents	309	3050	9.9	73	16	327	3497	15
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Steven Hauschka	44-44	33-35	11-12	3-3	143	118	109	28
Opponents	17-17	26-27	7-7	3-4	95	93	115	119

We have no interest in Zach Miller. He's a good blocker, and he'll probably catch 4-5 TDs, but he's not a big part of the offense. He's not mobile enough. He caught only 33 passes last year and had to re-work his contract just to stay on the roster. He'll be spelled by other tight ends, like speedy Luke Willson.

KICKER. Steven Hauschka is surrounded by a star-studded cast, and he's also an emerging talent. He's missed only 5 field goals in the last two years. He piled up 143 points last season.

But it's not easy for kickers to reach that kind of level. Injuries occur, and opponents tend to raise their game when playing the Super Bowl champions. Of the 21 other kickers to score 140-plus points in the last 10 years, only five reached 130 the following year. So it's very reasonable to expect Hauschka to score about 15 fewer points this season.

year. As evidenced in the Super Bowl, the Seahawks will use him in the same way; he had 30- and 15-yard runs on jet sweeps, and he returned a kickoff for a touchdown.

But Harvin won't be heavily featured as a receiver. This is a run-oriented offense; they're not trying to force the ball into the hands of one guy. Harvin played about two games worth of action last year, and he caught 5 passes for 43 yards. He's 5-foot-11 and nothing special in terms of hands and route-running ability. He's also played 16 games only once in his career. Neat player, but he'll be selected too early in fantasy drafts.

Doug Baldwin wasn't even drafted in 2011, but he's proven the scouts wrong. He's on the small size (5-10, 189), but he has reliable hands and studies hard. Including incompletions, he averaged 10.7 yards per pass play last year, 2nd-best of all receivers with at least 50 targets.

Baldwin will never be a go-to guy who catches 80 passes, but get him in the right matchup, and he contributes. Twice in three years, he's caught 50-plus balls for just short of 800 yards. He caught 6 TDs in 19 games last year. Look for similar kind of production this year.

Golden Tate signed with Detroit, but the Seahawks shouldn't miss him – and not just because Harvin is healthy. Jermaine Kearse is developing nicely. He underwent corrective laser eye surgery that appears to have solved the drop problems that caused Kearse to go undrafted in 2012. In the NFC Championship, they went to Kearse for the game-winning 35-yard touchdown on fourth down, and he added 4 catches and another touchdown in the Super Bowl.

Kearse will rotate liberally with the starters. He'll probably catch around 40 balls for about 600 yards, and he might lead the team in touchdown catches. He's their best weapon on deep routes down the sidelines, and with his size, he should get a healthy number of looks around the goal line.

The Seahawks re-signed Sidney Rice, but he's had a series of knee injuries and might not even make the team. If second-rounder Paul Richardson develops quickly, he'd be a better fit as their No. 4 receiver – a lot more speed and elusiveness. They also drafted Kevin Norwood out of Alabama, or maybe they get lucky with 6-foot-5 Chris Matthews; he was the offensive rookie of the year in the CFL two years ago.

	at Car. 12-7	S.F. 29-3	Jac. 45-17	at Hou. 23-20	at Ind. 28-34	Tenn. 20-13	at Ariz. 34-22	at St.L. 14-9	T.B. 27-24(ot)	at Atl. 33-10	Minn. 41-20	N.O. 34-7	at S.F. 17-19	at NYG 23-0	Ariz. 10-17	St.L. 27-9
QB Wilson (run stats)	25-33-0-320 5-7 43	8-19-1-142 10-33 7	14-21-1-202 2-14 1,4,11,23	12-23-1-123 10-77	15-31-1-210 13-102 10,28	23-31-0-257 10-61	18-29-0-235 8-29 31,15,1	10-18-0-139 3-16 2,80	19-26-2-217 6-36 10 run,16,10	19-26-0-287 3-20 43,6	13-18-0-230 2-14 6,19	22-30-0-310 8-47 2,4,8	15-25-1-199 1-2 39	18-27-1-206 8-50 12	11-27-1-108 2-32 11	15-23-0-172 5-(-1) 47
RB Lynch (rec stats)	17-43 2-9	28-98 3-37 7 rec,14,2	17-69 0-0	17-98 3-45 3	17-102 1-5 1,3	21-77 4-78 2	21-91 1-3	8-23 1-4	21-125 4-16	24-145 3-16 1	17-54 2-9 6 rec,4,1	16-45 3-12	20-72 0-0 11	16-47 6-73 2	18-71 2-5	23-97 1-4 2
RB Turbin (rec stats)	3-17 2-13	6-31 0-0	3-5 0-0	3-4 0-0	4-14 0-0	1-13 2-23	3-15 0-0	3-5 1-16	8-37 0-0	7-13 1-(-5)	7-17 1-12	11-34 0-0	2-12 0-0	9-34 1-1	0-0 0-0	7-13 0-0
WR Tate	4-51	1-19	5-88	3-17	5-61 10	5-33	4-77	5-93 2,80	3-29	6-106 6	1-26	4-45	6-65	2-25	2-34	8-129 47
WR Baldwin	7-91	1-51	1-35 35	3-39	5-80	4-48	1-16	1-12	6-75 10	5-76	2-63 19	4-77 4	3-36	6-71 12	1-8	0-0
WR Kearse	2-49 43	0-0	1-17	0-0	1-28 safety,28	3-17	1-17	0-0	2-43 16	3-75 43	0-0	2-26	2-15	2-21	3-38	DNP ankle
WR Rice	2-35	1-13	5-79 11,23	1-11	1-8	2-35	3-50 31	0-0	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
TE Miller	3-42	2-22	2-5 1,4	1-7	DNP hamstring	DNP hamstring	5-40 15	2-14	3-49	0-0	4-69	5-86 2	1-13	1-8	1-11 11	3-21
K Hauschka	27,40	30,37	21	48,39,45	42,36,41,46 miss: 48	31,29	51,42		36,27	37,43,44,53	50,26	26,20	31	49,44,24	27 miss: 24	28,35
Others		safety	Jackson 35 pass58 INT return Jackson 5 run				K.Davis 1 rec		29 INT return22 fumble retWillson 39 rec Coleman 8 rec							37 INT return

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Half of the eight new coaches last year far exceeded expectations, and Lovie Smith seems to be cut from the same cloth. Like Andy Reid, he's got a long, successful track record – 81-63 with the Bears. And with a churned over roster, the Bucs have enough talent to potentially reach .500.

In Chicago, Smith was always undermined by ineffective offenses, but he might have gotten it right this time around by hiring Jeff Tedford to serve as his offensive coordinator. Tedford has never coached in the NFL, but he appears to be an innovator who simply designs plays better than most everyone else. Chip Kelly and Marc Trestman both came from outside of the league and tossed together top-5 offenses.

We're not suggesting Tampa Bay will have a top-10 offense; this is still a lesser roster. But there are enough pieces in place that the Bucs potentially could be a middle-of-the-pack team in yards and touchdowns. And if it plays out that way, there will be a handful of Tampa Bay players who are selected way too late in fantasy drafts.

QUARTERBACK. At first glance, the temptation is to simply dismiss Josh McCown. As well as he played last year, this is still the same journeyman who was a non-factor in his first 11 years in the league.

McCown is 16-22 as an NFL starter. Prior to last year, he averaged only 190 passing yards in his previous 17 starts, with 21 touchdowns and 22 interceptions. He's tended to force balls into coverage. Take away Marc Trestman and those two talented wide receivers, and he could turn into another Ryan Fitzpatrick.

But McCown isn't stepping into a bare kitchen. The Bucs have some pieces, and while it's too early to put Jeff Tedford on Trestman's level, he was awfully successful in college, particularly with quarterbacks. Trent Dilfer, Akili Smith, Joey Harrington, Kyle Boller and Aaron Rodgers all were selected in the first round; that most of those guys were busts only makes Tedford more impressive – he was able to make lesser quarterbacks look like franchise players.

It's early, of course. Tedford didn't even coach last year. He may need some time to adjust to the pro game, and McCown will need to pick up his system. So we're putting the Bucs down for slightly below-average passing numbers. But there's some potential here. He could be a top-15 quarterback who's available in the late rounds of fantasy drafts.

The Bucs also have Mike Glennon, and he'll move into the starting lineup if McCown isn't playing well. He put together a credible rookie season, completing 59 percent of his passes, with 19 TDs and 9 interceptions. Inside the 10, his statistics were actually a little bit better than McCown's (even though he was in an inferior offense).

But the Bucs are under new management now, and they don't seem particularly high on Glennon. He's starting camp in the No. 2 spot, and it doesn't look like he's being seriously considered for the starting job.

RUNNING BACK. Doug Martin will bounce back. He's healthy, and he's probably an above-average tailback. But there's no chance of him returning to the kind of do-everything role he filled two years ago.

Tampa Bay's backfield has changed. As a rookie, Martin was pretty much all they had. He caught 49 passes, and he handled 77 percent of the team's rushing attempts. That's the most by anybody in the last three years. But the Bucs are deeper and more talented at tailback now.

They drafted Charles Sims in the third round. He might run as well as Martin, and he's definitely better as a pass catcher. Martin has struggled in that area. They've thrown him 94 passes in the last two years, and he's dropped 13 of them, worst of all running backs who've been used regularly in the passing game.

Sims, meanwhile, caught 203 passes in four years of college ball, and averaged 10.4 yards on those plays. He'll play on third downs, and that kills any chance of Martin catching more than 30 passes. Sims also might run for 400 yards off the bench.



CLIFF WELCH/ICON SM

Doug Martin is a good all-purpose running back, but the Bucs plan to spell him more often this season.

They also have Mike James, and he shouldn't be underestimated. He actually outplayed Martin last year, averaging 4.9 yards per carry. He ran for 158 yards at Seattle, and if not for a broken ankle, he might have been one of the breakout players of the second half of last season.

James is too slow, but he puts his head down and hits holes hard. He carried the ball 60 times last year and lost yards on only one of those plays – best in the league. Tampa Bay's other running backs all struggled in that area. He's also their biggest back. Sounds like he'll be their goal-line runner.

We're not trying to kick Martin to the curb. He averaged only 3.6 yards per carry last year, but his two poor games were against defenses that finished in the top 3 against the run (the Jets and Arizona). In his other three full games, Martin averaged 100 rushing yards and 4.6 yards per carry.

But Martin won't carry that same kind of workload. He won't be as involved as a pass catcher, and he might not get many goal-line carries. Jeff Tedford always used a two-back approach at Cal. "I don't believe that one back can carry the load – it's too physical," Tedford says. "You probably need to have two to three guys to bring different things to the table."

RECEIVER. In Vincent Jackson and Mike Evans, the Buccaneers have the league's tallest pair of receivers – 6-foot-5 skyscrapers who can simply take the ball away from smaller defensive backs.

That's the theory, anyway. These things always get more problematic when the guys have to step on the field and start playing. Jackson, recall, was half of the last pair of 6-foot-5 receivers, three years ago. He and Malcom Floyd were working with a capable passer (Philip Rivers) but combined for only 103 catches and 14 touchdowns.

Josh McCown is the quarterback here, and he played well with a pair of jumbo receivers last year in Chicago, but it's way too early to flag this as one of the league's best red zone passing offenses. Inside the 10 last year, McCown went only 3 of 10 when passing to Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery.

Jackson is catching a lot more balls with the Bucs than he ever did in San Diego. Two years in a row he's caught at least 72 passes and gone over 1,200 yards, with 15 TDs in 32 games. His size makes him tough to handle on the longer, vertical routes.

But with that huge body, Jackson doesn't have the quickness to run the shorter, more precise routes around the goal line. Inside the 10, he's caught only 5 of 12 passes over the last two years, and it was similar when he was in San Diego. We're guessing he'll probably stay in the range of 7-8 TDs, rather than moving up.

With Evans, our fear is he'll be another J.J. Stokes, Reggie Williams or Mike Williams (Southern Cal). All of those big receivers used size to dominate in college, then simply couldn't get open in the pros. Evans is a little faster than those guys (he ran a 4.53 at the combine) but he isn't as fast as other big receivers like Jackson and Calvin Johnson.

A host of lesser candidates are contending for the third receiver role, but none that will put up viable numbers. Lavelle Hawkins looks like the frontrunner. He played under Jeff Tedford at Cal, so he's familiar with the offense. But Hawkins has been with four teams in five years and hasn't done much with any of them. Louis Murphy has good speed; he's caught passes from four different quarterbacks who were selected No. 1 overall, so there's that.

The Bucs selected tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins early in the second round, so they're looking for him to start right away. But he's more like Martellus Bennett than Jimmy Graham. He runs only 4.80. He was a difference maker as a sophomore at Washington, catching 69 passes, but they used him less last year and he was less effective, catching only 38 balls.

Tim Wright caught 54 passes and 5 TDs last year, but he might not even make the team. At 219 pounds, he's really more of a wide receiver than a tight end, and the new coaching staff wants more

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING								
	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Mike Glennon	416	247	59.4	2608	19	9	40	83.9
Buccaneers	514	291	56.6	3181	22	12	47	79.6
Opponents	547	352	64.4	4061	30	21	35	88.9
RUSHING								
	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Bobby Rainey	150	566	3.8	5	--	--	--	--
Doug Martin	127	456	3.6	1	1454	11	--	--
Mike James	60	295	4.9	0	--	--	--	--
Buccaneers	420	1612	3.8	6	1837	13	1458	9
Opponents	438	1762	4.0	10	1320	13	2497	26
RECEIVING								
	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Vincent Jackson	78	1224	15.7	60	7	72	1384	8
Tim Wright	54	571	10.6	36	5	--	--	--
Tiquan Underwood	24	440	18.3	85	4	28	425	2
Mike Williams	22	216	9.8	28	2	63	996	9
Brian Leonard	29	179	6.2	19	0	11	67	0
Buccaneers	291	3181	10.9	85	22	311	4144	27
Opponents	352	4061	11.5	80	30	410	4951	30
KICKING								
	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Rian Lindell	31-31	23-29	4-6	4-6	100	102	64	79
Buccaneers	31-31	23-29	4-6	4-6	100	123	101	105
Opponents	40-40	31-32	14-15	2-2	133	102	128	86

blocking out of the position. Brandon Myers (formerly of the Giants and Raiders) may be the tight end they pair with Seferian-Jenkins.

KICKER. Connor Barth missed all of last year with an Achilles injury suffered in a charity basketball game, but he's healthy now and might quickly re-emerge as one of the better kickers in the league. He went 54 of 61 on field goals in the two seasons prior to last year, with four of the misses from 54-56 yards. He hit all eight of his other attempts from 50-plus.

Tampa Bay has been a kicker graveyard recently. Over the last five years, only three teams have scored fewer kicking points – not enough attempts. But they've added a bunch of new players and a new coach. In each of his last five seasons in Chicago, Lovie Smith's kickers ranked 14th to 16th in kicking, averaging 115 points.

	at NYJ 17-18	N.O. 14-16	at N.E. 3-23	Ariz. 10-13	Phil. 20-31	at Atl. 23-31	Car. 13-31	at Sea. 24-27 (ot)	Mia. 22-19	Atl. 41-28	at Det. 24-21	at Car. 6-27	Buff. 27-6	S.F. 14-33	at St.L. 13-23	at N.O. 17-42
QB Glennon (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	24-43-2-193 2-(-1) 8	26-43-1-273 3-20 24,1	26-44-0-256 1-13 59,1	30-51-0-275 3-2 10	17-23-0-168 4-13 12,20	11-21-1-139 4-(-3) 1	20-23-0-231 1-4 4,3	14-21-0-247 4-(-17) 7,85	14-21-1-180 2-3	9-25-2-90 1-0 38,5	18-34-1-179 0-0 11,24	16-26-0-158 2-3	22-41-1-219 0-0 48,1
QB Freeman (run stats)	15-31-1-210 1-0 17	9-22-1-125 3-16 5	19-41-1-236 1-4	DNP	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota Vikings
RB Martin (rec stats)	24-65 2-(-1) 5	29-144 0-0	20-88 2-20	27-45 3-16	16-67 4-24	11-47 1-7	DNP shoulder	DNP shoulder	IR shoulder	IR shoulder	IR shoulder	IR shoulder	IR shoulder	IR shoulder	IR shoulder	IR shoulder
RB Rainey (rec stats)	Cleveland Browns	Cleveland Browns	Cleveland Browns	Cleveland Browns	Cleveland Browns	Cleveland Browns	DNP	0-0 0-0	8-45 1-11 1	30-163 2-4 4 rec, 43,3	18-35 0-0	17-63 2-8	22-127 3-(-4) 80	11-27 1-3	20-37 1-4 1	11-35 1-1
WR Jackson	7-154	5-77	3-34	2-27	9-114 24,1	10-138 59,1	5-79	2-11	3-28	10-165 3	2-61	3-75	3-70 38	5-58 11	5-98	4-35
WR Williams	4-52 17	2-9	5-65	4-38 8	DNP hamstring	4-32	3-20	IR hamstring	IR hamstring	IR hamstring	IR hamstring	IR hamstring	IR hamstring	IR hamstring	IR hamstring	IR hamstring
WR Underwood	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	0-0	1-6	3-47	2-29 20	3-64	1-20	3-108 7,85	3-51	0-0	2-15	1-7	5-93 48
TE Wright	0-0	0-0	1-6	5-41	7-91	2-15	5-48 10	4-58 12	1-19	1-13	8-75	2-17	2-21 5	7-82 24	4-27	5-58 1
K Lindell	37	miss: 47	30 miss: 38	50	38,27	36,41,35	47,48	33	24,35	30,46 miss: 65	38 miss: 35,50	27,53 miss: 48	53,32	-	35,32	54
Others	Oglethorpe 5 rec 85 INT return															
	Crabtree 2 pass from James															
	safety Penn 1 rec															
	37 INT return															
	48 INT return															

Tennessee Titans

We're not sure what to make of Ken Whisenhunt. He was the offensive coordinator in San Diego last year, but that system was completely different than what he ran for six years in Arizona, leaving us wondering which direction he'll go with the Titans.

The Chargers ranked a respectable 13th in rushing last year, but Whisenhunt's offenses in Arizona averaged a league-low 87 yards, ranking in the bottom 10 every year. All of his offenses have ranked higher in passing, but in Arizona, the system was built around getting the ball to wide receivers. In San Diego last year, it emphasized passes to tight ends and running backs.

We've studied and analyzed all of Tennessee's players, making educated guesses about how they'll perform. But those forecasts no doubt will be revised after we see the first unit in the preseason and it becomes clearer how the offense is put together. The Titans may benefit from playing one of the easier schedules; their opponents went a combined 112-144 last year.

QUARTERBACK. After three years, Jake Locker is entering a make-or-break season, and break looks like the more likely outcome. He hasn't progressed enough thus far, and he's also had problems staying healthy.

Locker has ideal size, arm strength and mobility. That's why he was the 8th pick of the 2011 draft. But even in college, he's always had problems with accuracy and decision making. Ryan Fitzpatrick came off the bench last year and outplayed him when Locker missed the second half of the season with a broken foot.

Locker is one of the better running quarterbacks, but that might be a contributing problem. For years, he's conditioned himself to take off and run when things start breaking down. So now that it's time to rely more on his arm in those situations, he doesn't have the experience or know-how.

The old coaching staff tried to go the game-manager route with Locker last year, relying on the running game and asking him to complete mostly short, safe passes. He averaged only 205 passing yards in his six full games, with 8 TDs and 3 interceptions. He completed a respectable 61 percent, but he took too many sacks and didn't connect on enough throws that did any damage.

Under Ken Whisenhunt, Locker will be asked to do more, but there's no compelling reason to believe that he'll suddenly become a top-15 passer. Whisenhunt has orchestrated some productive passing games, but always with top-level quarterbacks – Kurt Warner and Philip Rivers. His offenses have been ordinary when he's worked with the likes of Derek Anderson, John Skelton and Kevin Kolb. Right now Locker looks far more like one of those guys.

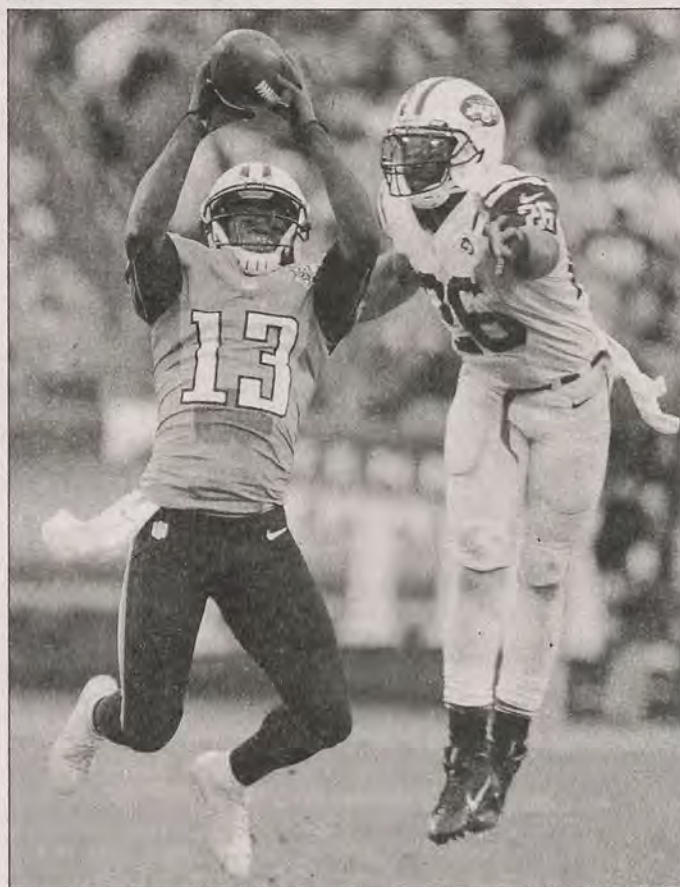
Zach Mettenberger is an intriguing prospect. He has the necessary size and throwing ability to develop into a starter in 2015. He lasted until the sixth round largely because he's coming off reconstructive knee surgery. He also may have been hurt by a failed drug test at the combine triggered by a diluted sample.

RUNNING BACK. The Titans aren't trying to replace Chris Johnson, released in the offseason. They're going to more of a committee approach, with multiple backs filling different roles.

Second-rounder Bishop Sankey should be their main runner. He's their most Johnson-like back. He doesn't have that kind of speed, but he runs under 4.5, makes people miss and is a good pass catcher. The Titans liked him enough to make him the first running back selected in the draft.

But Tennessee won't overwork Sankey. He worked out of a spread system in college, making his learning curve steeper. At 5-foot-9 and 209, he's also unlikely to get many goal-line carries. Ken Whisenhunt rotated his backs in San Diego last year. Something along the lines of 800-900 yards and 5-6 TDs sounds about right, with maybe 30 receptions.

Shonn Greene might carry the ball as much as Sankey. He's a good power runner, and he's been productive; he had two 1,000-yard seasons with the Jets. Give him adequate blocking, and he can pound the middle of a defense.



Kendall Wright caught 94 passes last year but wasn't a big part of the red zone offense – just 2 touchdowns.

But Greene isn't suited to be an every-down back. He doesn't have enough speed, and with a bruising, high-contact style, it's tough to keep him healthy. He missed five games with a knee injury last year, and he'll be 29 on opening day. He's out until camp after having that knee scoped.

Greene should be their goal-line runner, giving himself a chance to punch in maybe 7 TDs. But he's a liability as a pass catcher, so don't look for him to be on the field on many passing downs. When Greene was a 16-game starter for the Jets in 2012, he caught only 19 passes.

The Titans signed Dexter McCluster, and they see him as another Danny Woodhead. Whisenhunt, recall, coached Woodhead in San Diego last year, where he caught 76 passes for 605 yards and 6 touchdowns and also ran for 429 yards and 2 scores.

McCluster should be fine as a pass catcher. He caught 52 and 53 passes in his last two seasons in Kansas City. It's as a runner where he might struggle. At only 170 pounds – 30 pounds lighter than Woodhead – he's awfully thin. He goes down easily, and it could be hard keeping him healthy. We're figuring his ceiling is probably about 400 yards rushing, 500 receiving and maybe 4 TDs.

RECEIVER. The Titans have one of the most jumbled receiving corps. Kendall Wright and Delanie Walker should catch the most passes, but Nate Washington and Justin Hunter should make a lot more big plays. Dexter McCluster, as a third-down back, also should be heavily involved, making it hard to count on any one player.

Wright led the team with 94 catches last year, but he's worked primarily out of the slot, catching underneath passes. The team has a

new coaching staff now, but they'll probably continue to use Wright on the same kind of routes. He's a smaller receiver, and he doesn't have enough speed to have much success getting behind defenses.

Wright has averaged only 10.8 yards per catch the last two years, 3rd-lowest among receivers with at least 100 catches, and they won't feature him in the red zone. He's not tall enough to use on fade routes. He caught only 2 TDs last year, even though only six wide receivers caught more passes.

Hunter won't necessarily even start, but he might be a better choice (especially in a dynasty format). At 6-foot-4, he's built like A.J. Green, and he has some of the same kind of ability. With his long strides, he can run away from defenders, and he can leap up and high-point the ball. That might make him their featured receiver around the end zone.

The previous coaching staff didn't like Hunter's practice habits (which is why he didn't play much last year), but he seems to be serious about getting his career off the ground. He was too thin last year, but he hit the weights and showed up at OTAs 12 pounds heavier. If everything falls into place, he should be their best receiver.

The Titans might stick with Washington in the starting lineup. He's not as talented as Hunter, but he's a lot more experienced. And it's not as if he can't play. Washington has averaged 16 yards per catch over the last two years. They might opt to leave him in place, making things simpler for Hunter (he could be their third receiver, running a limited number of routes).

However it plays out, though, Washington is unlikely to be a big factor. Even if he starts, he'll lose playing time or at least pass attempts to Hunter. And he won't be a big part of their offense inside the red zone. He's caught only 4 and 3 touchdowns in the last two years.

Walker's role should change. He was usually a check-down option last year, averaging only 9.5 yards per catch – 2nd-lowest among tight ends with at least 30 catches. But Walker has the mobility to get downfield. He was a wide receiver at Central Missouri State, and he averaged 16.4 yards per catch his last year in San Francisco.

It's possible that Walker will catch fewer passes (he caught 60 last year) but still finish with more yards. He was the team's most heavily utilized pass catcher around the goal line last year, but we're not confident that will be repeated.

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Ryan Fitzpatrick	350	217	62.0	2454	14	12	21	82.0
Jake Locker	183	111	60.7	1256	8	4	16	86.7
Titans	533	328	61.5	3710	22	16	37	83.6
Opponents	545	344	63.1	3839	15	13	36	83.3
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Chris Johnson	279	1077	3.9	6	1243	6	1047	4
Shonn Greene	77	295	3.8	4	1063	8	1054	6
Ryan Fitzpatrick	43	225	5.2	3	197	1	215	0
Jake Locker	24	155	6.5	2	291	1	56	1
Titans	462	1894	4.1	16	1687	10	1438	8
Opponents	446	1795	4.0	21	2035	16	2053	10
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Kendall Wright	94	1079	11.5	45	2	64	626	4
Nate Washington	58	919	15.8	77	3	46	746	4
Delanie Walker	60	571	9.5	33	6	21	344	3
Justin Hunter	18	354	19.7	57	4	--	--	--
Chris Johnson	42	345	8.2	66	4	36	232	0
Titans	328	3710	11.3	77	22	318	3577	17
Opponents	344	3839	11.2	55	15	374	4205	31
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Rob Bironas	41-41	25-29	5-7	2-3	116	110	121	110
Opponents	37-38	32-39	15-18	3-5	134	139	113	147

At 6-foot, he's the shortest tight end in the league, and he wasn't particularly effective last year in that area, catching only 4 of 9 passes inside the 10.

KICKER. Releasing Rob Bironas looks like a cap move. At 36, he's not worth the \$3.1 million they were due to pay him; his kickoffs aren't as long, and he hasn't been as accurate. But he might be better than a dozen kickers around the league, so he'll sign somewhere – maybe even with Tennessee.

Hard to envision the Titans going with Brazilian Maikon Bonani. He converted only 18 of 23 field goals his final year at South Florida, with 2 missed extra points and only 8 touchbacks. Regardless, the Titans have middle-of-the-pack aspirations, and there's little chance of any kicker on this team being a top-10 scorer.

	at Pitt. 16-9	at Hou. 24-30(ot)	S.D. 20-17	NYJ 38-13	K.C. 17-26	at Sea. 13-20	S.F. 17-31	at St.L. 28-21	Jac. 27-29	Ind. 27-30	at Oak. 23-19	at Ind. 14-22	at Den. 28-51	Ariz. 34-37	at Jac. 20-16	Hou. 16-10
QB Locker (run stats)	11-20-0-125 5-3	17-30-0-148 2-10 6,10	23-37-0-299 5-68 7 run,34	18-24-0-149 3-17 1,4,16	DNP hip/knee	DNP hip/knee	25-41-1-326 3-29 66,26	13-22-2-185 3-10 5 run	4-9-1-24 3-18	IR foot	IR foot	IR foot	IR foot	IR foot	IR foot	IR foot
QB Fitzpatrick (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	3-8-0-108 2-(-2) 77	21-41-2-247 6-50 9 run,49	17-29-2-171 6-33	DNP	DNP	22-33-0-264 3-13 4 run,9,14	22-28-0-222 4-26 19	30-42-0-320 5-26 54,10	21-37-3-201 8-54 1 run,1	13-24-1-172 1-4 41	36-58-2-402 3-22 25,1,10,8	17-26-1-181 3-1 30	15-24-1-166 2-(-2)
RB C.Johnson (rec stats)	25-70 0-0	25-96 1-1	19-90 1-1	15-21 2-10	10-17 4-63 49 rec	12-33 3-21	9-39 4-71 66 rec	23-150 3-20 14,19	12-30 5-43	17-86 1-(-2) 30,7	20-73 3-8	18-69 6-32 1 rec	12-46 2-9 3	13-40 3-51 25 rec	22-90 1-3	27-127 3-14 11
RB Greene (rec stats)	4-18 0-0	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	DNP knee	1-2 0-0	9-38 1-28 5	9-22 3-10	3-40 0-0	4-15 0-0	10-39 1-1	9-46 0-0 1,28	3-4 0-0	19-91 1-0 1	6-10 0-0
WR Wright	2-11	7-54 6	6-71	5-56	6-74	5-69	9-98	3-69	7-78	9-80	6-103 10	6-77	2-17	12-150	4-22	5-50
WR Washington	4-46	3-50	8-131	4-105 4,77	3-30	1-15	3-62	0-0	3-29	2-53	5-45	5-81	2-24	7-92	6-117 30	2-39
WR Hunter	DNP	0-0	1-34 34	1-16 16	0-0	1-8	0-0	2-13	2-51	0-0	6-109 54	1-9	4-114 41	DNP	0-0	0-0
TE Walker	3-40	1-10 10	5-49	3-14 1	4-43	4-29	3-52 26	2-13	4-62 14	10-91 19	5-46	1-5	DNP concussion	8-53 1	4-35	3-29
K Bironas	26,44,27	47 miss: 48	20,37 miss: 43	26	22 miss: 32	38,25	31	-	39,37	25,38	33,22,23	-	-	45,24 miss: 50	45,52	42,55,37
Others	Battle 3 run	23 INT return		fumble recovery in end zone		77 fumble ret			Thompson 9 rec					Preston 10 rec Preston 8 rec		

Washington

Washington went 3-13 last year, but this team has some talent. It won the division the previous season, and the offense played well for about half of last year. Washington was sitting 9th in scoring after 10 games, before the wheels fell off and it averaged a league-low 15 points per game the rest of the way.

The offense will be different under Jay Gruden. It's moving away from the zone-blocking system favored by Mike Shanahan. There will be more passing and three-receiver sets. Under Gruden the last two years, the Bengals scored 17 more passing touchdowns than Washington, while scoring 11 fewer touchdowns on the ground.

But Gruden isn't an offensive genius like Sean Payton or Marc Trestman. He had plenty of talent at his disposal in Cincinnati, but in his three years there, the Bengals never ranked in the top 10 in either passing or rushing. We're expecting only average numbers overall.

QUARTERBACK. Rushing stats tend to be over-rewarded in our little game, and that makes it more likely that Robert Griffin III will re-emerge as a big-time quarterback. He doesn't have to be a great passer to be a great fantasy quarterback.

As poorly as Griffin played last year, he still graded out as the 11th-best quarterback on a per-game basis. He threw for only 246 yards per game, with 16 TDs in 13 games. Those are below-average numbers. But he also averaged 38 rushing yards, and in typical formats that's equivalent to an extra 76 passing yards.

Two years ago, Griffin was the 5th-best quarterback. Again, below average as a passer, down at only 213 yards per game, with just 20 TDs in 15 games. But he was the best running quarterback, averaging 54 yards, with 7 TDs.

Now Griffin's knee surgery is a year further back in the rearview mirror. He should have his confidence and speed back. He says he expects to play without a brace, which is exactly how he handled his earlier ACL injury at Baylor. Not that the team wants him running as often as he did as a rookie, but he should run for 500-600 yards and 4-5 TDs, and that will boost his value.

As a passer, Griffin is trending upwards. He's got some experience now, and he'll throw more in this offense. Andy Dalton isn't a great passer, and he's thrown 60 TDs over the last two years in this system, averaging 249 yards per game.

If you grant that Griffin is in the same ballpark as Dalton as a passer, and that he's got a good corps of receivers, then it's reasonable to conclude that Griffin could make a run at 260 yards per game and maybe 26 TDs. Blend in his rushing production, and a move back up into the top 5 at quarterback looks possible.

Kirk Cousins is more likely than other backups to get on the field, but he doesn't offer much upside. He completed only 52 percent of his passes last year, worst among all quarterbacks with at least 150 attempts. Washington shopped him in the offseason, and there was no interest.

RUNNING BACK. Alfred Morris should be a good back, but it's a downgrade moving from Mike Shanahan to Jay Gruden. Shanahan's zone-blocking system was perfect for Morris' one-cut running style, and the team also won't run as often under Gruden – none of his teams in Cincinnati ranked in the top 15 in rushing.

Gruden also has favored using a one-two punch at tailback. Morris was a workhorse under Shanahan. He might be more of a time-share back now. Lache Seastrunk is a blur and averaged 7.6 yards per carry at Baylor; he could fill that role.

Morris should be used more in the passing game. That's a plus. He caught only 9 passes last year, but he's seemingly got decent hands. He caught all but 3 passes that were thrown to him last year, and he caught 4 passes in the Pro Bowl. He's not strong in passing situations, but it's not as if he's the Venus de Milo.

But we're leery of promising more than 20 catches. Gruden hasn't been a big proponent of using running backs as receivers. Yes, Gio Bernard may have caught 56 passes last year, but he's a Darren Sproles. Morris is more like BenJarvus Green-Ellis, who caught only 26 passes in 32 games under Gruden.



DANIEL GLUSKOTER/ICON SM

If Robert Griffin III stays healthy, he could put up some of the best quarterbacking numbers in the league.

As a runner, Morris should be solid. He's got below-average speed, but he hits holes decisively and runs hard. He had a league-high 10 runs of 20-plus yards last year. With the offensive system changing, probably best to stay conservative with the projection – maybe 1,000-1,100 yards and 7-8 TDs.

Seastrunk runs a 4.48 and has some wiggle. But he weighs only 201 pounds and is making the conversion from a spread offense. LaMichael James and Kenjon Barner came from that college mold, and neither one of them has made an impact yet in the pros.

On some of his runs Seastrunk looks an awful lot like Bernard, but he won't be used in that kind of a role. He doesn't have that kind of receiving ability; he caught only 7 passes in two years at Baylor. Other teams don't seem to believe in him because they let him fall to the sixth round.

If Morris misses any playing time, Washington could use a true committee approach, with multiple backs getting over a third of the workload. Roy Helu was their backup last year; he's probably their best pass-catching back but might be too much of a straight-line guy as a runner. They've also got Evan Royster, who hardly played last year but averaged 5.9 yards per attempt as a rookie, banging out 328 yards late in the year.

RECEIVER. Pierre Garcon and DeSean Jackson are radically different receivers, but their overall value looks pretty similar. Garcon should catch more passes, while Jackson has a lot more big-play ability – but neither of them will be a top-10 receiver.

Jay Gruden, recall, is a fan of using three receivers. They signed Andre Roberts to a contract including \$8 million in guaranteed money, and he'll be a big part of that offense, just as Mohamed Sanu

and Marvin Jones were last year in Cincinnati (combining for 98 catches and 12 TDs). Roberts isn't a star, but he can play.

Also consider Jordan Reed, who was the best rookie tight end in the league last year before missing the final six games with a concussion. He's too small to be used as an in-line tight end (he's listed at 225 pounds) but Gruden could use him the same way he used Tyler Eifert.

If Reed and Roberts combine for 80-90 catches and about 9 TDs, it becomes mathematically impossible for either Jackson or Garcon to be a big-time producer.

Garcon led the league with 113 catches last year, but in Mike Shanahan's system, everything is built around getting the ball to that featured receiver. Rod Smith and Brandon Marshall both had multiple 100-catch seasons in that offense. With the revised playbook, Garcon's ceiling becomes about 80 catches.

Garcon won't be a reliable scorer. He's not a burner who gets behind defenses, and he's not a jumbo-sized freak like Calvin Johnson or Dez Bryant who dominates in the red zone. Four years in a row, Garcon has caught 5-6 TD passes. Tough to envision him being a top-20 receiver.

Jackson probably won't catch as many balls as Garcon, but he might finish with more yards and touchdowns anyway. He's one of the league's best big-play receivers — elusive enough to turn short catches into long gains and fast enough to get behind secondaries. He averaged 17.2 yards per catch in six years with the Eagles, with 32 touchdown catches and another 7 TDs on runs and punt returns.

On the downside, Jackson weighs only 175 pounds, making it hard for him to stay healthy. He's missed games in four of the past five years. With his size and playing style, he's also not a guy who will factor prominently in the red zone, making it hard for him rack up a lot of touchdowns. In his last two years under Andy Reid, he caught only 6 TDs in 26 games. Along with some really special games, there will also be plenty of duds.

Other pass catchers should be only nominally involved. They'll need to work in a tight end with more blocking ability, maybe Logan Paulsen. Santana Moss is 35, but he's caught over 40 passes two years in a row — he'll probably fill in if any of the three main receivers get hurt. Leonard Hankerson has good size and Aldrick Robinson has great speed, but neither one of those guys is even certain to make the team.

	Phil. 27-33	at G.B. 20-38	Det. 20-27	at Oak. 24-14	at Dall. 16-31	Chi. 45-41	at Den. 21-45	S.D. 30-24(ot)	at Minn. 27-34	at Phil. 16-24	S.F. 6-27	NYG 17-24	K.C. 10-45	at Atl. 26-27	Dall. 23-24	at NYG 6-20
QB Griffin (run stats)	30-49-2-329 5-24 10,24	26-40-1-320 4-1 6,3,9	32-50-1-326 6-37	18-31-0-227 3-10 5	19-39-1-246 9-77	18-29-1-298 11-84 3,45	15-30-2-132 5-7 7	23-32-1-291 6-17	24-37-0-281 7-44 8,11,1	17-35-1-264 10-44 2 2-pters, 62,41	16-26-1-118 4-27	24-32-0-207 12-88 19	12-26-1-164 4-29 7	DNP	DNP	DNP
QB Cousins (run stats)	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	5-9-2-48 1-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	7-16-0-59 0-0	29-45-2-381 0-0 23,53,3	21-36-1-197 2-10 8	19-49-2-169 1-3
RB Morris (rec stats)	12-45 1-9 5	13-107 2-13	15-73 0-0 30	16-71 0-0	16-81 0-0 45	19-95 0-0	17-93 0-0 1	25-121 0-0 5	26-139 0-0	22-93 0-0	14-52 0-0	11-26 3-27 1	12-31 0-0	18-98 1-8	24-88 0-0 4	16-62 2-21
RB Helu (rec stats)	1-5 1-11	0-0 1-2	0-0 3-35	13-41 2-43 14	6-42 4-35	11-41 1-5 14,3,3	5-11 1-14	2-23 1-6	2-8 3-23	3-39 3-11	7-26 1-7	4-6 4-34	1-5 1-2	3-5 1-4	1-(-2) 2-5	3-24 2-14
WR Garcon	7-64	8-143 6	8-73	6-59 5	6-69	5-58	7-46	7-172	7-119 8	6-68	8-48	9-61	5-37	7-129 53	11-144 8	6-56
WR Moss	5-54	3-41 9	7-77	0-0	2-42	0-0	2-20	1-2	1-13	2-41	3-27	1-15	3-30	8-64 3	2-13	2-13
WR Hankerson	5-80 10,24	3-35	3-21	4-49	2-36	1-26	1-7 7	5-55	5-61	1-5	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee	IR knee
TE Reed	5-38	3-18 3	5-50	DNP thigh	4-58	9-134 3	8-90	4-37	6-62 11	1-12	DNP concussion	DNP concussion	DNP concussion	DNP concussion	IR concussion	IR concussion
K Forbath	- miss: 40	DNP groin	DNP groin	DNP groin	20,32,33 miss: 49	38	-	47 miss: 25,59	20,40	-	36,35	33	50	33,37	36,22,47	31,49
Others	75 fumble ret. Potter 2 XPs	17 INT ret. Potter 2-2 FG	Potter 25 FG 45 INT ret	29 INT ret. Robinson 45 rec	26 INT ret	Young 1, 1.4 runs	Paulsen 1 rec Young 62 rec Robinson 41 rec	Paulsen 19 rec Paulsen 7 rec	F.Davis 23 rec							

2013 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Int	Sack	Rating
Robert Griffin III	456	274	60.1	3203	16	12	38	82.2
Kirk Cousins	155	81	52.3	854	4	7	5	58.4
Washington	611	355	58.1	4057	20	19	43	76.1
Opponents	514	337	65.6	4134	29	16	36	96.1
RUSHING	Att	Yards	Avg	TD	'12 Yd	'12 TD	'11 Yd	'11 TD
Alfred Morris	276	1275	4.6	7	1613	13	--	--
Robert Griffin III	86	489	5.7	0	815	7	--	--
Roy Helu	62	274	4.4	4	2	0	640	2
Washington	453	2164	4.8	14	2709	22	1614	8
Opponents	443	1769	4.0	23	1532	11	1884	15
RECEIVING	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	'12 No	'12 Yd	'12 TD
Pierre Garcon	113	1346	11.9	53	5	44	633	4
Jordan Reed	45	499	11.1	38	3	--	--	--
Santana Moss	42	452	10.8	28	2	41	573	8
Leonard Hankerson	30	375	12.5	29	3	38	543	3
Aldrick Robinson	18	365	20.3	62	2	11	237	3
Logan Paulsen	28	267	9.5	33	3	25	308	1
Roy Helu	31	251	8.1	28	0	7	45	0
Washington	355	4057	11.4	62	20	291	3666	24
Opponents	337	4134	12.3	57	29	393	4720	31
KICKING	XP-A	FG-A	40-49	50+	Pts	'12 Pts	'11 Pts	'10 Pts
Kai Forbath	26-26	18-22	4-6	1-2	80	84	--	--
Washington	33-33	21-26	5-7	2-3	96	122	118	100
Opponents	59-59	21-25	5-5	1-3	122	120	139	121

KICKER. Kai Forbath has the necessary accuracy; he's 35 of 40 on field goals over the last two years. But only 25 percent of his kickoffs the last two years have reached the end zone, worst among regulars. They need to either replace him or at least bring in someone to handle kickoffs.

Washington selected Zach Hocker in the seventh round, and he packs a lot more power. He hit a 57-yard field goal in the East-West Shrine game. Consistency is a concern (he went only 11 of 18 as a junior) but he should win this job. Realistically, however, neither Hocker nor Forbath is a candidate to be a top-15 kicker.

QB: TOTAL POINTS (TD-ONLY LEAGUE)

Leading quarterbacks from the 2013 season, using the scoring system of 4 points for TD passes, 6 for TD runs and 2 for 2-point conversions.

	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	Int	TDP	2-Pt	TDR	Pts
1. Peyton Manning, Den.	659	450	68.3	5477	10	55	0	1	226
2. Drew Brees, N.O.	650	446	68.6	5162	12	39	0	3	174
3. Andy Dalton, Cin.	586	363	61.9	4293	20	33	0	2	144
4. Matthew Stafford, Det.	634	371	58.5	4650	19	29	2	2	132
5. Cam Newton, Car.	473	292	61.7	3379	13	24	0	6	132
6. Nick Foles, Phil.	317	203	64.0	2891	2	27	2	3	130
7. Philip Rivers, S.D.	544	378	69.5	4478	11	32	0	0	128
8. Tony Romo, Dall.	535	342	63.9	3828	10	31	2	0	128
9. Andrew Luck, Ind.	570	343	60.2	3822	9	23	4	4	124
10. Ben Roethlisberger, Pitt.	584	375	64.2	4261	14	28	0	1	118
11. Russell Wilson, Sea.	407	257	63.1	3357	9	26	0	1	110
12. Colin Kaepernick, S.F.	416	243	58.4	3197	8	21	0	4	108
13. Matt Ryan, Atl.	651	439	67.4	4515	17	26	0	0	104
14. Tom Brady, N.E.	628	380	60.5	4343	11	25	2	0	104
15. Ryan Tannehill, Mia.	588	355	60.4	3913	17	24	0	1	102
16. Alex Smith, K.C.	508	308	60.6	3313	7	23	0	1	98
17. Carson Palmer, Ariz.	572	362	63.3	4274	22	24	0	0	96
18. Joe Flacco, Balt.	614	362	59.0	3912	22	19	2	1	86
19. Geno Smith, NYJ	443	247	55.8	3046	21	12	0	6	84
20. Jay Cutler, Chi.	355	224	63.1	2621	12	19	3	0	82
21. Mike Glennon, T.B.	416	247	59.4	2608	9	19	0	0	76
22. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Tenn.	350	217	62.0	2454	12	14	0	3	74
23. Eli Manning, NYG	551	317	57.5	3818	27	18	0	0	72
24. Robert Griffin III, Wash.	456	274	60.1	3203	12	16	2	0	68
25. Aaron Rodgers, G.B.	290	193	66.6	2536	6	17	0	0	68
26. E.J. Manuel, Buff.	306	180	58.8	1972	9	11	2	2	60
27. Josh McCown, Chi.	224	149	66.5	1829	1	13	1	1	60
28. Sam Bradford, St.L.	262	159	60.7	1687	4	14	1	0	58
29. Chad Henne, Jac.	503	305	60.6	3241	14	13	0	0	52
30. Christian Ponder, Minn.	239	152	63.6	1648	9	7	0	4	52
31. Matt Cassel, Minn.	254	153	60.2	1807	9	11	0	1	50
32. Jason Campbell, Clev.	317	180	56.8	2015	8	11	0	0	44
33. Jake Locker, Tenn.	183	111	60.7	1256	4	8	0	2	44
34. Case Keenum, Hou.	253	137	54.2	1760	6	9	0	1	42
35. Matt Schaub, Hou.	358	219	61.2	2310	14	10	0	0	40
36. Terrelle Pryor, Oak.	272	156	57.4	1798	11	7	0	2	40

QB: TOTAL POINTS (PERFORMANCE LEAGUE)

Leading quarterbacks from the 2013 season, using the scoring system of 4 points for TD passes, 6 for TD runs, 1 per every 20 passing yards, and 1 per every 10 rushing yards.

	Pass Yards	Pass TD	Int	Run Yards	Run TD	Fantasy Points
1. Peyton Manning, Den.	5477	55	10	-31	1	496.8
2. Drew Brees, N.O.	5162	39	12	52	3	437.3
3. Andy Dalton, Cin.	4293	33	20	183	2	377.0
4. Matthew Stafford, Det.	4650	29	19	69	2	371.4
5. Cam Newton, Car.	3379	24	13	585	6	359.5
6. Philip Rivers, S.D.	4478	32	11	72	0	359.1
7. Andrew Luck, Ind.	3822	23	9	377	4	352.8
8. Ben Roethlisberger, Pitt.	4261	28	14	99	1	341.0
9. Matt Ryan, Atl.	4515	26	17	55	0	335.3
10. Russell Wilson, Sea.	3357	26	9	539	1	331.8
11. Tony Romo, Dall.	3828	31	10	38	0	323.2
12. Tom Brady, N.E.	4343	25	11	18	0	323.0
13. Ryan Tannehill, Mia.	3913	24	17	238	1	321.5
14. Colin Kaepernick, S.F.	3197	21	8	524	4	320.3
15. Carson Palmer, Ariz.	4274	24	22	3	0	310.0
16. Alex Smith, K.C.	3313	23	7	431	1	306.8
17. Nick Foles, Phil.	2891	27	2	221	3	296.7
18. Joe Flacco, Balt.	3912	19	22	131	1	294.7
19. Robert Griffin III, Wash.	3203	16	12	489	0	277.1
20. Geno Smith, NYJ	3046	12	21	366	6	272.9
21. Eli Manning, NYG	3818	18	27	36	0	266.5
22. Jay Cutler, Chi.	2621	19	12	118	0	224.9
23. Chad Henne, Jac.	3241	13	14	77	0	221.8
24. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Tenn.	2454	14	12	225	3	219.2
25. Mike Glennon, T.B.	2608	19	9	37	0	210.1
26. Aaron Rodgers, G.B.	2536	17	6	120	0	206.8
27. Terrelle Pryor, Oak.	1798	7	11	576	2	187.5
28. E.J. Manuel, Buff.	1972	11	9	186	2	177.2
29. Josh McCown, Chi.	1829	13	1	69	1	158.4
30. Matt Schaub, Hou.	2310	10	14	24	0	157.9
31. Jason Campbell, Clev.	2015	11	8	107	0	155.5
32. Christian Ponder, Minn.	1648	7	9	151	4	149.5
33. Matt Cassel, Minn.	1807	11	9	57	1	146.1
34. Sam Bradford, St.L.	1687	14	4	31	0	145.5
35. Case Keenum, Hou.	1760	9	6	72	1	137.2

QB: POINTS PER START (TD-ONLY LEAGUE)

TD-only production per game for quarterbacks who started at least 8 games in 2013, using the scoring system of 4 points for TD passes, 6 for TD runs and 2 for 2-point conversions. Also shown are the same figures from the 2012 season.

	13 St	13 TDP	13 TDR	13 2-Pt	13 FPG	12 St	12 TDP	12 TDR	12 2-Pt	12 FPG
1. Peyton Manning	16	55	1	0	14.13	16	37	0	1	9.38
2. Nick Foles	10	24	3	2	11.80	6	5	1	0	4.33
3. Drew Brees	16	39	3	0	10.88	16	43	1	0	11.13
4. Andy Dalton	16	33	2	0	9.00	16	27	4	0	-8.25
5. Tony Romo	15	31	0	2	8.53	16	28	1	2	7.63
6. Matthew Stafford	16	29	2	2	8.25	16	20	4	1	6.63
7. Cam Newton	16	24	6	0	8.25	16	19	8	0	7.75
8. Philip Rivers	16	32	0	0	8.00	16	26	0	0	6.50
9. Andrew Luck	16	23	4	4	7.75	16	23	5	0	7.63
10. Aaron Rodgers	9	17	0	0	7.56	16	39	2	1	10.63
11. Jay Cutler	11	19	0	3	7.45	15	19	0	0	5.07
12. Ben Roethlisberger	16	28	1	0	7.38	13	26	0	1	8.15
13. Russell Wilson	16	26	1	0	6.88	16	26	4	0	8.00
14. Colin Kaepernick	16	21	4	0	6.75	7	10	2	0	7.43
15. Alex Smith	15	23	1	0	6.53	9	13	0	0	5.78
16. Tom Brady	16	25	0	2	6.50	16	34	4	0	10.00
17. Matt Ryan	16	26	0	0	6.50	16	32	1	0	8.38
18. Ryan Tannehill	16	24	1	0	6.38	16	12	2	2	4.00
19. Ryan Fitzpatrick	9	11	2	0	6.22	16	24	1	0	6.38
20. Carson Palmer	16	24	0	0	6.00	15	22	1	2	6.53
21. EJ Manuel	10	11	2	2	6.00	---	---	---	---	---
22. Mike Glennon	13	19	0	0	5.85	---	---	---	---	---
23. Jason Campbell	8	11	0	0	5.50	1	1	0	0	4.00
24. Joe Flacco	16	19	1	2	5.38	16	22	3	1	6.75
25. Geno Smith	16	12	6	0	5.25	---	---	---	---	---
26. Case Keenum	8	9	1	0	5.25	---	---	---	---	---
27. Robert Griffin III	13	16	0	2	5.23	15	20	7	0	8.13
28. Christian Ponder	9	5	4	0	4.89	16	18	2	1	5.38
29. Eli Manning	16	18	0	0	4.50	16	26	0	0	6.50
30. Matt Schaub	8	9	0	0	4.50	16	22	0	0	5.50
31. Terrelle Pryor	9	7	2	0	4.44	1	2	1	0	14.00
32. Kellen Clemens	9	8	0	1	3.78	---	---	---	---	---
33. Chad Henne	13	12	0	0	3.69	6	6	1	0	5.00

QB: POINTS PER START (PERFORMANCE LEAGUE)

Performance-league production per game for quarterbacks who started at least 8 games in 2013, using the scoring system of 4 points for TD passes, 6 for TD runs, 1 for every 20 passing yards and 1 for every 10 rushing yards.

	St	Pass Yards	Pass TD	Int	Run Yards	Run TD	Fantasy Points
1. Peyton Manning, Den.	16	342	3.44	.63	-2	.06	31.0
2. Drew Brees, N.O.	16	323	2.44	.75	3	.19	27.3
3. Nick Foles, Phil.	10	265	2.40	.20	22	.30	27.2
4. Andy Dalton, Cin.	16	268	2.06	1.25	11	.13	23.6
5. Matthew Stafford, Det.	16	291	1.81	1.19	4	.13	23.2
6. Aaron Rodgers, G.B.	9	282	1.89	.67	13	.00	23.0
7. Cam Newton, Car.	16	211	1.50	.81	37	.38	22.5
8. Philip Rivers, S.D.	16	280	2.00	.69	5	.00	22.4
9. Andrew Luck, Ind.	16	239	1.44	.56	24	.25	22.1
10. Tony Romo, Dall.	15	255	2.07	.67	3	.00	21.5
11. Robert Griffin III, Wash.	13	246	1.23	.92	38	.00	21.3
12. Ben Roethlisberger, Pitt.	16	266	1.75	.88	6	.06	21.3
13. Matt Ryan, Atl.	16	282	1.63	1.06	3	.00	21.0
14. Russell Wilson, Sea.	16	210	1.63	.56	34	.06	20.7
15. Alex Smith, K.C.	15	221	1.53	.47	29	.07	20.5
16. Jay Cutler, Chi.	11	238	1.73	1.09	11	.00	20.4
17. Terrelle Pryor, Oak.	9	196	.78	1.22	61	.22	20.4
18. Tom Brady, N.E.	16	271	1.56	.69	1	.00	20.2
19. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Tenn.	9	231	1.22	1.33	24	.22	20.2
20. Ryan Tannehill, Mia.	16	245	1.50	1.06	15	.06	20.1
21. Colin Kaepernick, S.F.	16	200	1.31	.50	33	.25	20.0
22. Jason Campbell, Clev.	8	251	1.38	1.00	13	.00	19.4
23. Carson Palmer, Ariz.	16	267	1.50	1.38	0	.00	19.4
24. Joe Flacco, Balt.	16	245	1.19	1.38	8	.06	18.4
25. EJ Manuel, Buff.	10	197	1.10	.90	19	.20	17.7
26. Case Keenum, Hou.	8	220	1.13	.75	9	.13	17.2
27. Geno Smith, NYJ	16	190	.75	1.31	23	.38	17.1
28. Matt Schaub, Hou.	8	245	1.13	1.63	2	.00	16.9
29. Eli Manning, NYG	16	239	1.13	1.69	2	.00	16.7
30. Chad Henne, Jac.	13	240	.92	1.08	6	.00	16.3
31. Mike Glennon, T.B.	13	201	1.46	.69	3	.00	16.2
32. Christian Ponder, Minn.	9	142	.56	.78	17	.44	13.7
33. Kellen Clemens, St.L.	9	184	.89	.78	7	.00	13.7

QUARTERBACKS: TEAM PASSING POINTS PER GAME (PERFORMANCE LEAGUE)

Team passing production (per game) for the 2013 season, based on 4 points per TD pass and 1 for every 20 passing yards.

	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TDP	Int	Long	Rating	Sack	Lost	Fantasy Points	2012 Yards	2012 TDP	2012 Fan Pts
1. Denver	675	461	68.3	5572	55	10	78t	114.4	20	128	31.2	4671	37	23.8
2. New Orleans	651	446	68.5	5162	39	12	76t	104.5	37	244	25.9	5187	43	27.0
3. San Diego	544	378	69.5	4478	32	11	60t	105.5	30	150	22.0	3606	26	17.8
4. Chicago	579	373	64.4	4450	32	13	80t	96.8	30	169	21.9	3298	21	15.6
5. Detroit	634	371	58.5	4650	29	19	87	84.2	23	168	21.8	5139	22	21.6
6. Philadelphia	508	310	61.0	4406	32	9	70	102.7	46	296	21.8	4075	18	17.2
7. Cincinnati	587	364	62.0	4321	33	20	82t	89.0	29	182	21.8	3807	28	18.9
8. Dallas	586	375	64.0	4226	33	12	82t	95.7	35	272	21.5	4992	29	22.9
9. Atlanta	659	445	67.5	4541	26	17	81t	89.4	44	298	20.7	4719	32	22.7
10. Pittsburgh	586	377	64.3	4306	28	14	67	92.3	43	289	20.5	4012	27	19.3
11. Green Bay	570	366	64.2	4538	25	16	83t	91.7	45	270	20.4	4342	40	23.6
12. Cleveland	681	379	55.7	4372	26	20	95t	75.7	49	332	20.2	3668	16	15.5
13. New England	628	380	60.5	4343	25	11	81t	87.3	40	256	19.8	4844	34	23.6
14. Arizona	574	363	63.2	4291	24	22	91t	83.9	41	289	19.4	3383	11	13.3
15. Miami	594	357	60.1	3966	24	19	67	80.1	58	399	18.4	3425	13	14.0
16. Indianapolis	582	350	60.1	3952	23	10	73t	86.5	32	227	18.1	4374	23	19.4
17. Houston	633	371	58.6	4183	19	22	66	74.0	42	370	17.8	4046	22	18.1
18. Seattle	420	267	63.6	3508	27	9	80t	102.4	44	272	17.7	3234	27	16.9
19. Washington	611	355	58.1	4057	20	19	62t	76.1	43	306	17.7	3666	24	17.5
20. Kansas City	546	333	61.0	3561	24	8	71t	88.6	41	221	17.1	2937	8	11.2
21. Tennessee	533	328	61.5	3710	22	16	77t	83.6	37	214	17.1	3577	17	15.4
22. Baltimore	619	363	58.6	3914	19	23	74	72.0	48	324	17.0	3996	22	18.0
23. NY Giants	567	325	57.3	3875	18	29	70t	67.6	40	287	16.6	3967	26	18.9
24. Carolina	473	292	61.7	3379	24	13	79t	88.7	43	336	16.6	3927	19	17.0
25. St. Louis	506	301	59.5	3360	22	11	81t	84.8	36	235	16.0	3783	22	17.3
26. Minnesota	546	325	59.5	3645	18	19	79t	76.0	44	218	15.9	2935	18	13.7
27. Jacksonville	592	349	59.0	3751	16	21	67t	71.9	50	310	15.7	3746	20	16.7
28. Oakland	519	298	57.4	3629	17	20	73t	73.9	44	289	15.6	4292	24	19.4
29. Tampa Bay	514	291	56.6	3181	22	12	85t	79.6	47	361	15.4	4144	27	19.7
30. San Francisco	417	244	58.5	3210	21	8	64t	91.7	39	231	15.3	3551	23	16.8
31. Buffalo	522	299	57.3	3373	16	15	59t	75.0	48	270	14.5	3430	24	16.7
32. NY Jets	480	266	55.4	3270	13	22	69t	66.6	47	338	13.5	3178	14	13.4

QUARTERBACKS: PASSING INSIDE THE 10

Quarterbacks attempting at least 15 passes inside the 10. Touchdown figures include 2-point conversions.

	Comp	Att	Comp%	TD	Int	TD%	sack
1. Ryan Tannehill, Mia.	18	27	66.7%	12	0	44.4%	0
2. Peyton Manning, Den.	40	61	65.6%	27	0	43.5%	1
3. Tony Romo, Dall.	27	44	61.4%	20	0	43.5%	2
4. Russell Wilson, Sea.	14	24	58.3%	12	1	41.4%	5
5. Philip Rivers, S.D.	25	43	58.1%	14	1	31.8%	1
6. Alex Smith, K.C.	18	31	58.1%	10	1	31.3%	1
7. Nick Foles, Phil.	15	26	57.7%	12	0	41.4%	3
8. Joe Flacco, Balt.	23	40	57.5%	15	0	36.6%	1
9. Drew Brees, N.O.	24	42	57.1%	16	1	34.8%	4
10. Matt Schaub, Hou.	13	23	56.5%	7	0	30.4%	0
11. Jay Cutler, Chi.	18	32	56.3%	15	2	46.9%	0
12. Andy Dalton, Cin.	20	36	55.6%	13	3	33.3%	3
13. Ben Roethlisberger, Pitt.	22	40	55.0%	14	0	32.6%	3
14. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Ten.	11	20	55.0%	6	0	26.1%	3
15. Mike Glennon, T.B.	12	23	52.2%	10	0	38.5%	3
16. Andrew Luck, Ind.	19	37	51.4%	12	1	29.3%	4
17. Matt Ryan, Atl.	24	48	50.0%	13	2	26.0%	2
18. Aaron Rodgers, G.B.	13	26	50.0%	7	1	21.9%	6
19. Eli Manning, NYG	10	20	50.0%	6	0	28.6%	1
20. Tom Brady, N.E.	20	41	48.8%	14	1	31.8%	3
21. Cam Newton, Car.	11	23	47.8%	9	0	36.0%	2
22. Matthew Stafford, Det.	19	40	47.5%	15	0	36.6%	1
23. Josh McCown, Chi.	8	17	47.1%	7	0	41.2%	0
24. Colin Kaepernick, S.F.	14	30	46.7%	10	2	32.3%	1
25. EJ Manuel, Buff.	7	15	46.7%	6	0	37.5%	1
26. Sam Bradford, St.L.	11	24	45.8%	11	0	44.0%	1
27. Matt Flynn, G.B.	9	20	45.0%	5	0	25.0%	0
28. Brandon Weeden, Clev.	8	18	44.4%	7	0	38.9%	0
29. Kellen Clemens, St.L.	8	18	44.4%	6	0	30.0%	2
30. Robert Griffin III, Was.	14	32	43.8%	11	0	33.3%	1
31. Carson Palmer, Ariz.	16	37	43.2%	10	1	27.0%	0
32. Geno Smith, NYJ	8	22	36.4%	5	0	22.7%	0
33. Matt McGloin, Oak.	6	17	35.3%	3	0	17.6%	0
34. Chad Henne, Jac.	12	35	34.3%	5	1	13.9%	1
35. Matt Cassel, Min.	6	20	30.0%	4	2	20.0%	0
36. Jason Campbell, Clev.	6	20	30.0%	3	0	14.3%	1

PROJECTED DIFFICULTY OF SCHEDULE

Combined wins and losses, and average points allowed based on how opponents performed in 2013.

	W	L	T	Pct	Points	(Pts rank)
1. Indianapolis	110	146	0	.430	24.8	(1)
2. Tennessee	112	144	0	.438	24.3	(6)
3. Houston	113	143	0	.441	24.5	(4)
4. Jacksonville	116	140	0	.453	23.8	(13)
5. Baltimore	118	138	0	.461	22.7	(22)
6. NY Giants	119	137	0	.465	24.2	(8)
7. Cleveland	119	137	0	.465	22.9	(21)
8. New Orleans	119	135	2	.469	23.6	(17)
9. Cincinnati	120	136	0	.469	23.3	(20)
10. Pittsburgh	120	136	0	.469	22.6	(25)
11. Carolina	120	134	2	.473	23.8	(14)
12. Minnesota	121	133	2	.477	24.3	(5)
13. Philadelphia	122	133	1	.479	23.6	(18)
14. Tampa Bay	123	131	2	.484	23.5	(19)
15. Dallas	125	131	0	.488	23.6	(15)
16. Washington	125	130	1	.490	23.6	(16)
17. Detroit	124	128	4	.492	24.6	(2)
18. Chicago	125	127	4	.496	23.8	(12)
19. Buffalo	127	127	2	.500	24.3	(7)
20. Green Bay	128	126	2	.504	23.9	(11)
21. Miami	129	125	2	.508	24.6	(3)
22. Atlanta	130	124	2	.512	22.5	(26)
23. New England	131	123	2	.516	23.9	(10)
24. NY Jets	132	122	2	.520	24.0	(9)
25. Arizona	140	116	0	.547	22.4	(29)
26. Kansas City	143	113	0	.559	22.6	(24)
27. Seattle	143	112	1	.561	22.5	(27)
28. San Francisco	144	112	0	.563	22.7	(23)
29. San Diego	144	112	0	.563	22.5	(28)
30. St. Louis	144	111	1	.564	22.3	(30)
31. Denver	146	110	0	.570	21.5	(32)
32. Oakland	148	108	0	.578	21.8	(31)

RUNNING BACKS: RUSHING YARDS PER START

Running backs averaging the most rushing yards in 2013 (among those starting at least half the time). Committee backs flagged with a "C".

	Starts	Att	Yards	Avg	TD
1. LeSean McCoy, Phil.	16	19.6	100.4	5.1	.69
2. Adrian Peterson, Minn.	14	19.9	90.4	4.5	.79
3. Jamaal Charles, K.C.	15	17.3	85.8	5.0	1.27
4. Matt Forte, Chi.	16	18.1	83.7	4.6	.75
5. Ryan Mathews, S.D.	15	18.8	83.1	4.4	.47
6. Zac Stacy, St.L.	12	20.8	80.8	3.9	.67
7. DeMarco Murray, Dall.	14	15.5	80.1	5.2	.71
8. Alfred Morris, Wash.	16	17.3	79.7	4.6	.44
9. Marshawn Lynch, Sea.	16	18.8	78.6	4.2	.88
10. Eddie Lacy, G.B.	15	18.9	78.5	4.1	.73
11. Reggie Bush, Det.	14	15.9	71.9	4.5	.50
12. Frank Gore, S.F.	16	17.3	70.5	4.1	.56
13. Arian Foster, Hou.	8	15.1	67.8	4.5	.25
14. Chris Johnson, Tenn.	16	17.4	67.3	3.9	.63
15. Rashad Jennings, Oak.	8	15.3	66.5	4.4	.63
16. LeVeon Bell, Pitt.	13	18.8	66.2	3.5	.62
17. LeGarrette Blount (C), N.E.	8	12.9	66.1	5.1	.50
18. Knowshon Moreno, Den.	16	15.1	64.9	4.3	.81
19. C.J. Spiller (C), Buff.	15	13.5	62.2	4.6	.13
20. Andre Brown, NYG	8	17.4	61.5	3.5	.38
21. DeAngelo Williams (C), Car.	15	13.4	56.2	4.2	.27
22. Fred Jackson (C), Buff.	16	12.9	55.6	4.3	.63
23. Chris Ivory (C), NYJ	15	12.1	55.5	4.6	.20
24. Stevan Ridley (C), N.E.	14	12.7	55.2	4.3	.50
25. Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.	15	15.6	53.5	3.4	.33
26. BenJarvus Green-Ellis (C), Cin.	16	13.8	47.3	3.4	.44
27. Rashard Mendenhall, Ariz.	15	14.5	45.8	3.2	.53
28. Steven Jackson, Atl.	12	13.1	45.3	3.5	.58
29. Lamar Miller (C), Mia.	16	11.1	44.3	4.0	.13
30. Ray Rice, Balt.	15	14.3	44.0	3.1	.27
31. Bilal Powell (C), NYJ	16	11.0	43.6	4.0	.06
32. Andre Ellington (C), Ariz.	15	7.9	43.5	5.5	.27
33. Giovani Bernard (C), Cin.	16	10.6	43.4	4.1	.50
34. Willis McGahee (C), Clev.	8	14.1	37.3	2.6	.13
35. Joique Bell (C), Det.	14	8.8	37.0	4.2	.43
36. Donald Brown (C), Ind.	14	7.1	36.6	5.2	.57

RUNNING BACKS: TOUCHDOWNS PER START

Running backs averaging the most touchdowns in 2013 (among those starting at least half the time). Committee backs flagged with a "C".

	Starts	Att	Yards	Avg	TD
1. Jamaal Charles, K.C.	15	17.3	85.8	5.0	1.27
2. Marshawn Lynch, Sea.	16	18.8	78.6	4.2	.88
3. Knowshon Moreno, Den.	16	15.1	64.9	4.3	.81
4. Adrian Peterson, Minn.	14	19.9	90.4	4.5	.79
5. Matt Forte, Chi.	16	18.1	83.7	4.6	.75
6. Eddie Lacy, G.B.	15	18.9	78.5	4.1	.73
7. DeMarco Murray, Dall.	14	15.5	80.1	5.2	.71
8. LeSean McCoy, Phil.	16	19.6	100.4	5.1	.69
9. Zac Stacy, St.L.	12	20.8	80.8	3.9	.67
10. Fred Jackson (C), Buff.	16	12.9	55.6	4.3	.63
11. Rashad Jennings, Oak.	8	15.3	66.5	4.4	.63
12. Chris Johnson, Tenn.	16	17.4	67.3	3.9	.63
13. LeVeon Bell, Pitt.	13	18.8	66.2	3.5	.62
14. Steven Jackson, Atl.	12	13.1	45.3	3.5	.58
15. Donald Brown (C), Ind.	14	7.1	36.6	5.2	.57
16. Frank Gore, S.F.	16	17.3	70.5	4.1	.56
17. Rashard Mendenhall, Ariz.	15	14.5	45.8	3.2	.53
18. Giovani Bernard (C), Cin.	16	10.6	43.4	4.1	.50
19. Reggie Bush, Det.	14	15.9	71.9	4.5	.50
20. Stevan Ridley (C), N.E.	14	12.7	55.2	4.3	.50
21. LeGarrette Blount (C), N.E.	8	12.9	66.1	5.1	.50
22. Shane Vereen (C), N.E.	8	5.5	26.0	4.7	.50
23. Danny Woodhead (C), S.D.	16	6.6	26.8	4.0	.50
24. Ryan Mathews, S.D.	15	18.8	83.1	4.4	.47
25. Mike Tolbert (FB), Car.	16	6.3	22.6	3.6	.44
26. BenJarvus Green-Ellis (C), Cin.	16	13.8	47.3	3.4	.44
27. Alfred Morris, Wash.	16	17.3	79.7	4.6	.44
28. Joique Bell (C), Det.	14	8.8	37.0	4.2	.43
29. Daniel Thomas (C), Mia.	15	7.3	27.1	3.7	.40
30. Andre Brown, NYG	8	17.4	61.5	3.5	.38
31. Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.	15	15.6	53.5	3.4	.33
32. Pierre Thomas (C), N.O.	16	9.2	34.3	3.7	.31
33. Andre Ellington (C), Ariz.	15	7.9	43.5	5.5	.27
34. Ray Rice, Balt.	15	14.3	44.0	3.1	.27

RUNNING BACKS: TOTAL YARDS PER START

Running backs averaging the most total yards in 2013 (among those who started at least half the time). Committee backs flagged with a "C".

	Starts	Run Yards	Rec Yards	Total Yards	TD
1. LeSean McCoy, Phil.	16	100.4	33.7	134.1	.69
2. Jamaal Charles, K.C.	15	85.8	46.2	132.0	1.27
3. Matt Forte, Chi.	16	83.7	37.1	120.8	.75
4. Reggie Bush, Det.	14	71.9	36.1	108.0	.50
5. DeMarco Murray, Dall.	14	80.1	25.0	105.1	.71
6. Adrian Peterson, Minn.	14	90.4	12.2	102.6	.79
7. Knowshon Moreno, Den.	16	64.9	34.3	99.1	.81
8. Marshawn Lynch, Sea.	16	78.6	19.8	98.3	.88
9. LeVeon Bell, Pitt.	13	66.2	30.7	96.8	.62
10. Ryan Mathews, S.D.	15	83.1	12.6	95.7	.47
11. Eddie Lacy, G.B.	15	78.5	17.1	95.7	.73
12. Zac Stacy, St.L.	12	80.8	11.8	92.5	.67
13. Arian Foster, Hou.	8	67.8	22.9	90.6	.25
14. Chris Johnson, Tenn.	16	67.3	21.6	88.9	.63
15. Alfred Morris, Wash.	16	79.7	4.9	84.6	.44
16. Rashad Jennings, Oak.	8	66.5	15.1	81.6	.63
17. Fred Jackson (C), Buff.	16	55.6	24.2	79.8	.63
18. Shane Vereen (C), N.E.	8	26.0	53.4	79.4	.50
19. Frank Gore, S.F.	16	70.5	8.8	79.3	.56
20. DeAngelo Williams (C), Car.	15	56.2	22.2	78.4	.27
21. Giovani Bernard (C), Cin.	16	43.4	32.1	75.6	.50
22. C.J. Spiller (C), Buff.	15	62.2	12.3	74.5	.13
23. Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.	15	53.5	20.9	74.5	.33
24. Andre Brown, NYG	8	61.5	12.9	74.4	.38
25. LeGarrette Blount (C), N.E.	8	66.1	4.8	70.9	.50
26. Andre Ellington (C), Ariz.	15	43.5	24.7	68.2	.27
27. Joique Bell (C), Det.	14	37.0	30.7	67.7	.43
28. Pierre Thomas (C), N.O.	16	34.3	32.1	66.4	.31
29. Ray Rice, Balt.	15	44.0	21.4	65.4	.27
30. Danny Woodhead (C), S.D.	16	26.8	37.8	64.6	.50
31. Steven Jackson, Atl.	12	45.3	15.9	61.2	.58
32. Bilal Powell (C), NYJ	16	43.6	17.0	60.6	.06
33. Stevan Ridley (C), N.E.	14	55.2	4.4	59.6	.50
34. Chris Ivory (C), NYJ	15	55.5	.7	56.2	.20
35. Trent Richardson (C), Cle.-Ind.	16	35.2	19.8	54.9	.25
36. Lamar Miller (C), Mia.	16	44.3	10.6	54.9	.13

RUNNING BACKS: FANTASY POINTS PER START

Overall production for backs starting at least half of 2013, assuming 6 points for TDs and 1 for every 10 run/rec yards.

	Starts	Run Yards	Rec Yards	Total Yards	TD	Fan Points
1. Jamaal Charles, K.C.	15	85.8	46.2	132.0	1.27	20.8
2. LeSean McCoy, Phil.	16	100.4	33.7	134.1	.69	17.5
3. Matt Forte, Chi.	16	83.7	37.1	120.8	.75	16.7
4. Marshawn Lynch, Sea.	16	78.6	19.8	98.3	.88	15.1
5. Adrian Peterson, Minn.	14	90.4	12.2	102.6	.79	15.0
6. DeMarco Murray, Dall.	14	80.1	25.0	105.1	.71	14.8
7. Knowshon Moreno, Den.	16	64.9	34.3	99.1	.81	14.8
8. Eddie Lacy, G.B.	15	78.5	17.1	95.7	.73	14.0
9. Reggie Bush, Det.	14	71.9	36.1	108.0	.50	13.8
10. LeVeon Bell, Pitt.	13	66.2	30.7	96.8	.62	13.4
11. Zac Stacy, St.L.	12	80.8	11.8	92.5	.67	13.3
12. Chris Johnson, Tenn.	16	67.3	21.6	88.9	.63	12.6
13. Ryan Mathews, S.D.	15	83.1	12.6	95.7	.47	12.4
14. Rashad Jennings, Oak.	8	66.5	15.1	81.6	.63	11.9
15. Fred Jackson (C), Buff.	16	55.6	24.2	79.8	.63	11.7
16. Frank Gore, S.F.	16	70.5	8.8	79.3	.56	11.3
17. Alfred Morris, Wash.	16	79.7	4.9	84.6	.44	11.1
18. Shane Vereen (C), N.E.	8	26.0	53.4	79.4	.50	10.9
19. Arian Foster, Hou.	8	67.8	22.9	90.6	.25	10.8
20. Giovani Bernard (C), Cin.	16	43.4	32.1	75.6	.50	10.6
21. LeGarrette Blount (C), N.E.	8	66.1	4.8	70.9	.50	10.1
22. Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.	15	53.5	20.9	74.5	.33	9.7
23. Steven Jackson, Atl.	12	45.3	15.9	61.2	.58	9.6
24. Danny Woodhead (C), S.D.	16	26.8	37.8	64.6	.50	9.5
25. DeAngelo Williams (C), Car.	15	56.2	22.2	78.4	.27	9.4
26. Joique Bell (C), Det.	14	37.0	30.7	67.7	.43	9.3
27. Andre Brown, NYG	8	61.5	12.9	74.4	.38	9.2
28. Stevan Ridley (C), N.E.	14	55.2	4.4	59.6	.50	9.0
29. Rashard Mendenhall, Ariz.	15	45.8	8.9	54.7	.53	8.8
30. Donald Brown (C), Ind.	14	36.6	15.3	51.9	.57	8.6
31. Pierre Thomas (C), N.O.	16	34.3	32.1	66.4	.31	8.5
32. Andre Ellington (C), Ariz.	15	43.5	24.7	68.2	.27	8.4
33. Ray Rice, Balt.	15	44.0	21.4	65.4	.27	8.3
34. C.J. Spiller (C), Buff.	15	62.2	12.3	74.5	.13	8.3

RUNNING BACKS: TOUCHDOWNS

Running backs with the most total touchdowns (run-rec-ret) in 2013.

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	2012 Att-Yds-TD
1. Jamaal Charles, K.C.	259	1287	5.0	46	19	285-1509-6
2. Marshawn Lynch, Sea.	301	1257	4.2	43	14	315-1590-12
3. Knowshon Moreno, Den.	241	1038	4.3	31	13	138-525-4
4. Matt Forte, Chi.	289	1339	4.6	55	12	248-1094-6
5. LeSean McCoy, Phil.	314	1607	5.1	57	11	200-840-5
6. Adrian Peterson, Minn.	279	1266	4.5	78	11	348-2097-13
7. Eddie Lacy, G.B.	284	1178	4.1	60	11	college
8. DeMarco Murray, Dall.	217	1121	5.2	43	10	161-663-4
9. Chris Johnson, Tenn.	279	1077	3.9	30	10	276-1243-6
10. Fred Jackson, Buff.	206	890	4.3	59	10	115-437-4
11. Frank Gore, S.F.	276	1128	4.1	51	9	258-1214-10
12. Zac Stacy, St.L.	250	973	3.9	40	8	college
13. LeVeon Bell, Pitt.	244	860	3.5	43	8	college
14. Giovani Bernard, Cin.	170	695	4.1	35	8	college
15. Rashard Mendenhall, Ariz.	217	687	3.2	28	8	51-182-1
16. Joique Bell, Det.	166	650	3.9	20	8	82-414-3
17. Donald Brown, Ind.	102	537	5.3	51	8	108-417-1
18. Danny Woodhead, S.D.	106	429	4.0	14	8	76-301-7
19. Alfred Morris, Wash.	276	1275	4.6	45	7	335-1613-13
20. Ryan Mathews, S.D.	285	1255	4.4	51	7	184-707-1
21. Reggie Bush, Det.	223	1006	4.5	39	7	227-986-8
22. Stevan Ridley, N.E.	178	773	4.3	29	7	290-1263-12
23. LeGarrette Blount, N.E.	153	772	5.0	47	7	41-151-2
24. BenJarvus Green-Ellis, Cin.	220	756	3.4	25	7	278-1094-6
25. Steven Jackson, Atl.	157	543	3.5	50	7	257-1042-4
26. Mike Tolbert, Car.	101	361	3.6	22	7	54-183-7
27. Rashad Jennings, Oak.	163	733	4.5	80	6	101-283-2
28. Bobby Rainey, Cle.-T.B.	150	566	3.8	80	6	0-0-0
29. Daniel Thomas, Mia.	109	406	3.7	55	6	91-325-4
30. Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.	234	803	3.4	48	5	86-414-2
31. Pierre Thomas, N.O.	147	549	3.7	18	5	105-473-2
32. Darren McFadden, Oak.	114	379	3.3	30	5	216-707-3
33. Knile Davis, K.C.	70	242	3.5	20	5	college
34. DeAngelo Williams, Car.	201	843	4.2	43	4	173-737-7
35. Ben Tate, Hou.	181	771	4.3	60	4	65-279-2
36. Ray Rice, Balt.	214	660	3.1	47	4	257-1143-10
37. Andre Ellington, Ariz.	118	652	5.5	80	4	college

RUNNING BACKS: RUSHING YARDS

Running backs with the most rushing yards in 2013. Touchdowns include scores by rushing, receiving and kick returns.

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	2012 Att-Yds-TD
1. LeSean McCoy, Phil.	314	1607	5.1	57	11	200-840-5
2. Matt Forte, Chi.	289	1339	4.6	55	12	248-1094-6
3. Jamaal Charles, K.C.	259	1287	5.0	46	19	285-1509-6
4. Alfred Morris, Wash.	276	1275	4.6	45	7	335-1613-13
5. Adrian Peterson, Minn.	279	1266	4.5	78	11	348-2097-13
6. Marshawn Lynch, Sea.	301	1257	4.2	43	14	315-1590-12
7. Ryan Mathews, S.D.	285	1255	4.4	51	7	184-707-1
8. Eddie Lacy, G.B.	284	1178	4.1	60	11	college
9. Frank Gore, S.F.	276	1128	4.1	51	9	258-1214-10
10. DeMarco Murray, Dall.	217	1121	5.2	43	10	161-663-4
11. Chris Johnson, Tenn.	279	1077	3.9	30	10	276-1243-6
12. Knowshon Moreno, Den.	241	1038	4.3	31	13	138-525-4
13. Reggie Bush, Det.	223	1006	4.5	39	7	227-986-8
14. Zac Stacy, St.L.	250	973	3.9	40	8	college
15. C.J. Spiller, Buff.	202	933	4.6	77	2	207-1244-8
16. Fred Jackson, Buff.	206	890	4.3	59	10	115-437-4
17. LeVeon Bell, Pitt.	244	860	3.5	43	8	college
18. DeAngelo Williams, Car.	201	843	4.2	43	4	173-737-7
19. Chris Ivory, NYJ	182	833	4.6	69	3	40-217-2
20. Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.	234	803	3.4	48	5	86-414-2
21. Stevan Ridley, N.E.	178	773	4.3	29	7	290-1263-12
22. LeGarrette Blount, N.E.	153	772	5.0	47	7	41-151-2
23. Ben Tate, Hou.	181	771	4.3	60	4	65-279-2
24. BenJarvus Green-Ellis, Cin.	220	756	3.4	25	7	278-1094-6
25. Rashad Jennings, Oak.	163	733	4.5	80	6	101-283-2
26. Lamar Miller, Mia.	177	709	4.0	49	2	51-250-1
27. Bilal Powell, NYJ	176	697	4.0	39	1	110-437-4
28. Giovani Bernard, Cin.	170	695	4.1	35	8	college
29. Rashard Mendenhall, Ariz.	217	687	3.2	28	8	51-182-1
30. Ray Rice, Balt.	214	660	3.1	47	4	257-1143-10
31. Andre Ellington, Ariz.	118	652	5.5	80	4	college
32. Joique Bell, Det.	166	650	3.9	20	8	82-414-3
33. Bobby Rainey, Cle.-T.B.	150	566	3.8	80	6	0-0-0
34. Trent Richardson, Cle.-Ind.	188	563	3.0	22	4	267-950-12
35. Montee Ball, Den.	120	559	4.7	45	4	college
36. Pierre Thomas, N.O.	147	549	3.7	18	5	105-473-2
37. Steven Jackson, Atl.	157	543	3.5	50	7	257-1042-4

MONEY YARDS INDEX, TEAM

How teams fared in short-yardage rushing in 2013. Included are all rushing plays when 1-2 yards were needed to either score or move the chains on third or fourth down.

	Conv	Att	Pct		Conv	Att	Pct
1. Green Bay	32	38	.842	17. Indianapolis	26	40	.650
2. Minnesota	23	29	.793	18. Oakland	22	34	.647
3. Washington	26	35	.743	19. Kansas City	21	33	.636
4. Arizona	17	23	.739	20. New Orleans	26	41	.634
5. San Diego	27	37	.730	21. Atlanta	17	27	.630
6. Carolina	32	44	.727	22. Pittsburgh	28	45	.622
7. Detroit	29	40	.725	23. New England	23	38	.605
8. NY Giants	17	24	.708	24. Jacksonville	22	37	.595
9. Philadelphia	35	50	.700	25. Houston	24	42	.571
10. NY Jets	25	37	.676	26. Tennessee	19	34	.559
11. Cleveland	26	39	.667	27. San Francisco	23	42	.548
12. Dallas	16	24	.667	28. Tampa Bay	12	22	.545
13. Denver	23	35	.657	29. Chicago	17	32	.531
14. St. Louis	19	29	.655	30. Miami	14	27	.519
15. Cincinnati	32	49	.653	31. Baltimore	22	43	.512
16. Buffalo	26	40	.650	32. Seattle	19	40	.475

MONEY YARDS INDEX, INDIVIDUAL

How players with 5 or more attempts fared in short-yardage rushing in 2013. Included are all rushing plays when 1-2 yards were needed to either score or move the chains on third or fourth down.

	Conv	Att	Pct		Conv	Att	Pct
1. L.McClain, S.D.	7	7	1.000	41. B.Bolden, N.E.	5	8	.625
2. J.Starks, G.B.	7	7	1.000	42. A.Brown, NYG	5	8	.625
3. • Manuel, Buff. (QB)	7	7	1.000	43. J.Charles, K.C.	16	26	.615
4. J.Kuhn, G.B.	5	5	1.000	44. B.Green-Ellis, Cin.	16	26	.615
5. • Luck, Ind. (QB)	5	5	1.000	45. R.Turbin, Sea.	3	5	.600
6. • Dalton, Cin. (QB)	9	10	.900	46. D.Woodhead, S.D.	3	5	.600
7. D.Young, Was.	7	8	.875	47. B.Miller, S.F.	3	5	.600
8. B.Jacobs, NYG	7	8	.875	48. • Foles, Phil. (QB)	3	5	.600
9. • Stafford, Det. (QB)	5	6	.833	49. • Fitzpatrick, Ten. (QB)	3	5	.600
10. • G.Smith, NYJ (QB)	5	6	.833	50. F.Gore, S.F.	13	22	.591
11. J.Collins, N.O.	9	11	.818	51. S.Ridley, N.E.	7	12	.583
12. • Newton, Car. (QB)	16	20	.800	52. D.Thomas, Mia.	7	12	.583
13. C.Ivory, NYJ	12	15	.800	53. R.Brown, S.D.	4	7	.571
14. C.Ogbonnaya, Clev.	8	10	.800	54. B.Rainey, T.B.	4	7	.571
15. A.Morris, Was.	8	10	.800	55. A.Bradshaw, Ind.	4	7	.571
16. D.McFadden, Oak.	4	5	.800	56. F.Jackson, Buff.	14	25	.560
17. • Keenum, Hou. (QB)	4	5	.800	57. L.Bell, Pitt.	15	27	.556
18. • Griffin, Wash. (QB)	4	5	.800	58. B.Powell, NYJ	5	9	.556
19. E.Lacy, G.B.	15	19	.789	59. B.Brown, Phil.	5	9	.556
20. L.McCoy, Phil.	26	33	.788	60. W.McGahee, Clev.	11	20	.550
21. K.Moreno, Den.	14	18	.778	61. M.Lynch, Sea.	14	27	.519
22. C.Johnson, Ten.	7	9	.778	62. M.Ball, Den.	6	12	.500
23. A.Peterson, Min.	17	22	.773	63. R.Bush, Det.	4	8	.500
24. J.Bell, Det.	18	24	.750	64. V.Leach, Balt.	3	6	.500
25. Z.Stacy, St.L.	12	16	.750	65. D.Johnson, Hou.	3	6	.500
26. R.Mendenhall, Ariz.	11	15	.733	66. B.Pierce, Balt.	6	13	.462
27. R.Mathews, S.D.	11	15	.733	67. G.Bernard, Cin.	5	11	.455
28. M.Tolbert, Car.	14	20	.700	68. • Henne, Jac. (QB)	4	9	.444
29. A.Foster, Hou.	9	13	.692	69. A.Dixon, S.F.	3	7	.429
30. T.Richardson, Ind.	13	19	.684	70. R.Rice, Balt.	8	19	.421
31. R.Jennings, Oak.	13	19	.684	71. B.Tate, Hou.	6	15	.400
32. M.Forte, Chi.	13	19	.684	72. M.James, T.B.	2	5	.400
33. J.Dwyer, Pitt.	8	12	.667	73. D.Richardson, St.L.	2	5	.400
34. S.Greene, Ten.	6	9	.667	74. D.Martin, T.B.	2	5	.400
35. R.Helu, Was.	6	9	.667	75. D.Brown, Ind.	2	6	.333
36. S.Jackson, Atl.	13	20	.650	76. M.Bush, Chi.	4	13	.308
37. M.Jones-Drew, Jac.	14	22	.636	77. L.Miller, Mia.	2	7	.286
38. P.Thomas, N.O.	10	16	.625	78. J.Battle, Ten.	2	9	.222
39. D.Murray, Dall.	10	16	.625	79. M.Ingram, N.O.	1	5	.200
40. L.Blount, N.E.	5	8	.625	80. • Wilson, Sea. (QB)	1	7	.143

WIDE RECEIVERS: TOUCHDOWNS PER START

Touchdowns per game for receivers who started at least 8 games in 2013. Some "starts" include games where receiver wasn't on the field for the first play but played extensively.

	Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD		Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD
1. Demaryius Thomas, Den.	16	5.8	89.4	15.5	.88	37. T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	16	5.1	67.7	13.2	.31
2. Calvin Johnson, Det.	14	6.0	106.6	17.8	.86	38. Mike Wallace, Mia.	16	4.6	58.1	12.7	.31
3. Dez Bryant, Dall.	16	5.8	77.1	13.3	.81	39. Michael Floyd, Ariz.	16	4.1	65.1	16.0	.31
4. Brandon Marshall, Chi.	16	6.3	80.9	13.0	.79	40. Golden Tate, Sea.	16	4.0	56.1	14.0	.31
5. Wes Welker, Den.	13	5.6	59.8	10.7	.77	41. Doug Baldwin, Sea.	16	3.1	48.6	15.6	.31
6. A.J. Green, Cin.	16	6.1	89.1	14.6	.69	42. Brandon LaFell, Car.	16	3.1	39.2	12.8	.31
7. Eric Decker, Den.	16	5.4	80.5	14.8	.69	43. Kenny Stills, N.O.	16	2.0	40.1	20.0	.31
8. Josh Gordon, Clev.	14	6.2	117.6	18.9	.64	44. Jarrett Boykin, G.B.	10	4.6	63.1	13.7	.30
9. Larry Fitzgerald, Ariz.	16	5.1	59.6	11.6	.63	45. Leonard Hankerson, Wash.	10	3.0	37.5	12.5	.30
10. Marvin Jones, Cin.	16	3.2	44.5	14.0	.63	46. Earl Bennett, Chi. (3WR)	15	2.1	16.2	7.6	.29
11. Jericho Cotchery, Pitt. (3WR)	16	2.9	37.6	13.1	.63	47. Victor Cruz, NYG	14	5.2	71.3	13.7	.29
12. Marlon Brown, Balt.	13	3.7	39.3	10.6	.56	48. Stevie Johnson, Buff.	12	4.3	49.8	11.5	.28
13. Antonio Brown, Pitt.	16	6.9	93.7	13.6	.56	49. Torrey Smith, Balt.	16	4.1	70.5	17.4	.27
14. DeSean Jackson, Phil.	16	5.1	83.3	16.2	.56	50. Jermaine Kearse, Sea. (3WR)	16	1.4	21.6	15.7	.27
15. Riley Cooper, Phil.	16	2.9	52.2	17.8	.54	51. Greg Jennings, Minn.	15	4.5	53.6	11.8	.27
16. Keenan Allen, S.D.	15	4.6	67.5	14.7	.53	52. Steve Smith, Car.	15	4.3	49.7	11.6	.27
17. Eddie Royal, S.D.	15	3.1	42.1	13.4	.53	53. Dexter McCluster, K.C. (3WR)	15	3.5	34.1	9.6	.27
18. Jordy Nelson, G.B.	16	5.3	82.1	15.5	.50	54. Brian Hartline, Mia.	16	4.8	63.5	13.4	.25
19. Kenbrell Thompson, N.E.	8	3.0	43.8	14.6	.50	55. Rod Streater, Oak.	16	3.8	55.5	14.8	.25
20. Tiquan Underwood, T.B.	8	2.4	47.5	20.0	.50	56. Jeremy Kerley, NYJ	12	3.6	43.6	12.2	.25
21. Terrance Williams, Dall.	9	3.1	60.4	19.4	.48	57. Jacoby Jones, Balt.	12	3.1	37.9	12.3	.25
22. Tavon Austin, St.L.	13	3.1	32.2	10.5	.46	58. Robert Woods, Buff.	14	2.9	41.9	14.7	.24
23. Alshon Jeffery, Chi.	16	5.6	88.8	16.0	.46	59. Cecil Shorts III, Jac.	13	5.1	59.8	11.8	.23
24. Austin Pettis, St.L.	9	3.2	33.3	10.3	.44	60. Roddy White, Atl.	13	4.8	54.7	11.3	.23
25. Anquan Boldin, S.F.	16	5.3	73.7	13.9	.44	61. Rishard Matthews, Mia.	9	3.7	40.6	11.1	.22
26. Vincent Jackson, T.B.	16	4.9	76.5	15.7	.44	62. James Jones, G.B.	14	4.2	58.4	13.8	.21
27. Rueben Randle, NYG (3WR)	14	2.4	36.2	14.9	.43	63. Mike Brown, Jac.	10	3.2	44.6	13.9	.20
28. Julian Edelman, N.E.	11	7.9	79.5	10.1	.42	64. Nate Washington, Tenn.	16	3.6	57.4	15.8	.19
29. Emmanuel Sanders, Pitt.	16	4.2	46.3	11.0	.40	65. Harry Douglas, Atl.	11	6.3	74.1	11.8	.18
30. Denarius Moore, Oak.	13	3.5	53.5	15.1	.38	66. Lance Moore, N.O.	13	2.8	35.2	12.4	.15
31. Sidney Rice, Sea.	8	1.9	28.9	15.4	.38	67. Kris Durham, Det.	13	2.8	34.3	12.4	.15
32. Marques Colston, N.O.	15	5.0	62.9	12.6	.33	68. Greg Little, Clev.	13	2.7	28.8	10.7	.15
33. Dwayne Bowe, K.C.	15	3.8	44.9	11.8	.33	69. Donnie Avery, K.C.	15	2.7	39.7	14.9	.13
34. Aaron Dobson, N.E.	9	3.4	44.9	13.0	.33	70. Kendall Wright, Tenn.	16	5.9	67.4	11.5	.13
35. Pierre Garcon, Wash.	16	7.1	84.1	11.9	.31	71. DeAndre Hopkins, Hou.	16	3.3	50.1	15.4	.13
36. Andre Johnson, Hou.	16	6.8	87.9	12.9	.31	72. Mohamed Sanu, Cin.	16	2.9	28.4	9.7	.13

WIDE RECEIVERS: RECEIVING YARDS PER START

Receiving yards per game for receivers who started at least 8 games in 2013. Some "starts" include games where receiver wasn't on the field for the first play but played extensively.

	Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD		Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD
1. Josh Gordon, Clev.	14	6.2	117.6	18.9	.64	37. Rod Streater, Oak.	16	3.8	55.5	14.8	.25
2. Calvin Johnson, Det.	14	6.0	106.6	17.8	.86	38. Roddy White, Atl.	13	4.8	54.7	11.3	.23
3. Antonio Brown, Pitt.	16	6.9	93.7	13.6	.56	39. Greg Jennings, Minn.	15	4.5	53.6	11.8	.27
4. Demaryius Thomas, Den.	16	5.8	89.4	15.5	.88	40. Denarius Moore, Oak.	13	3.5	53.5	15.1	.38
5. A.J. Green, Cin.	16	6.1	89.1	14.6	.69	41. Riley Cooper, Phil.	16	2.9	52.2	17.8	.54
6. Alshon Jeffery, Chi.	16	5.6	88.8	16.0	.46	42. Nate Burleson, Det.	9	4.3	51.2	11.8	.11
7. Andre Johnson, Hou.	16	6.8	87.9	12.9	.31	43. DeAndre Hopkins, Hou.	16	3.3	50.1	15.4	.13
8. Pierre Garcon, Wash.	16	7.1	84.1	11.9	.31	44. Stevie Johnson, Buff.	12	4.3	49.8	11.5	.28
9. DeSean Jackson, Phil.	16	5.1	83.3	16.2	.56	45. Steve Smith, Car.	15	4.3	49.7	11.6	.27
10. Jordy Nelson, G.B.	16	5.3	82.1	15.5	.50	46. Doug Baldwin, Sea.	16	3.1	48.6	15.6	.31
11. Brandon Marshall, Chi.	16	6.3	80.9	13.0	.79	47. Tiquan Underwood, T.B.	8	2.4	47.5	20.0	.50
12. Eric Decker, Den.	16	5.4	80.5	14.8	.69	48. Emmanuel Sanders, Pitt.	16	4.2	46.3	11.0	.40
13. Julian Edelman, N.E.	11	7.9	79.5	10.1	.42	49. Aaron Dobson, N.E.	9	3.4	44.9	13.0	.33
14. Dez Bryant, Dall.	16	5.8	77.1	13.3	.81	50. Dwayne Bowe, K.C.	15	3.8	44.9	11.8	.33
15. Vincent Jackson, T.B.	16	4.9	76.5	15.7	.44	51. Mike Brown, Jac.	10	3.2	44.6	13.9	.20
16. Harry Douglas, Atl.	11	6.3	74.1	11.8	.18	52. Marvin Jones, Cin.	16	3.2	44.5	14.0	.63
17. Anquan Boldin, S.F.	16	5.3	73.7	13.9	.44	53. Kenbrell Thompson, N.E.	8	3.0	43.8	14.6	.50
18. Victor Cruz, NYG	14	5.2	71.3	13.7	.29	54. Jeremy Kerley, NYJ	12	3.6	43.6	12.2	.25
19. Torrey Smith, Balt.	16	4.1	70.5	17.4	.27	55. Stephen Hill, NYJ	8	2.9	42.5	14.8	.13
20. T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	16	5.1	67.7	13.2	.31	56. Eddie Royal, S.D.	15	3.1	42.1	13.4	.53
21. Keenan Allen, S.D.	15	4.6	67.5	14.7	.53	57. Robert Woods, Buff.	14	2.9	41.9	14.7	.24
22. Kendall Wright, Tenn.	16	5.9	67.4	11.5	.13	58. Santonio Holmes, NYJ	11	2.1	41.5	19.8	.09
23. Michael Floyd, Ariz.	16	4.1	65.1	16.0	.31	59. Rishard Matthews, Mia.	9	3.7	40.6	11.1	.22
24. Brian Hartline, Mia.	16	4.8	63.5	13.4	.25	60. Kenny Stills, N.O.	16	2.0	40.1	20.0	.31
25. Jarrett Boykin, G.B.	10	4.6	63.1	13.7	.30	61. Donnie Avery, K.C.	15	2.7	39.7	14.9	.13
26. Marques Colston, N.O.	15	5.0	62.9	12.6	.33	62. Marlon Brown, Balt.	13	3.7	39.3	10.6	.56
27. Terrance Williams, Dall.	9	3.1	60.4	19.4	.48	63. Brandon LaFell, Car.	16	3.1	39.2	12.8	.31
28. Wes Welker, Den.	13	5.6	59.8	10.7	.77	64. Chris Givens, St.L.	15	2.3	37.9	16.7	.00
29. Jerome Simpson, Minn.	9	3.7	59.8	16.3	.00	65. Jacoby Jones, Balt.	12	3.1	37.9	12.3	.25
30. Cecil Shorts III, Jac.	13	5.1	59.8	11.8	.23	66. Jericho Cotchery, Pitt. (3WR)	16	2.9	37.6	13.1	.63
31. Hakeem Nicks, NYG	15	3.7	59.7	16.0	.00	67. Leonard Hankerson, Wash.	10	3.0	37.5	12.5	.30
32. Larry Fitzgerald, Ariz.	16	5.1	59.6	11.6	.63	68. Rueben Randle, NYG (3WR)	14	2.4	36.2	14.9	.43
33. James Jones, G.B.	14	4.2	58.4	13.8	.21	69. Lance Moore, N.O.	13	2.8	35.2	12.4	.15
34. Mike Wallace, Mia.	16	4.6	58.1	12.7	.31	70. Kris Durham, Det.	13	2.8	34.3	12.4	.15
35. Nate Washington, Tenn.	16	3.6	57.4	15.8	.19	71. Dexter McCluster, K.C. (3WR)	15	3.5	34.1	9.6	.27
36. Golden Tate, Sea.	16	4.0	56.1	14.0	.31	72. Austin Pettis, St.L.	9	3.2	33.3	10.3	.44

WIDE RECEIVERS: FANTASY POINTS PER START

Fantasy production per game for wide receivers who started at least 8 games in 2013. Some "starts" include games where receiver wasn't on the field for the first play but played extensively.

	Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD	FPG		Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD	FPG
1. Calvin Johnson, Det.	14	6.0	106.6	17.8	.86	15.8	37. Eddie Royal, S.D.	15	3.1	42.1	13.4	.53	7.4
2. Josh Gordon, Clev.	14	6.2	117.6	18.9	.64	15.6	38. Kenbrell Thompson, N.E.	8	3.0	43.8	14.6	.50	7.4
3. Demaryius Thomas, Den.	16	5.8	89.4	15.5	.88	14.2	39. Cecil Shorts III, Jac.	13	5.1	59.8	11.8	.23	7.4
4. A.J. Green, Cin.	16	6.1	89.1	14.6	.69	13.0	40. Marlon Brown, Balt.	13	3.7	39.3	10.6	.56	7.3
5. Brandon Marshall, Chi.	16	6.3	80.9	13.0	.79	12.8	41. James Jones, G.B.	14	4.2	58.4	13.8	.21	7.1
6. Antonio Brown, Pitt.	16	6.9	93.7	13.6	.56	12.7	42. Rod Streater, Oak.	16	3.8	55.5	14.8	.25	7.1
7. Dez Bryant, Dall.	16	5.8	77.1	13.3	.81	12.6	43. Emmanuel Sanders, Pitt.	16	4.2	46.3	11.0	.40	7.0
8. Eric Decker, Den.	16	5.4	80.5	14.8	.69	12.2	44. Greg Jennings, Minn.	15	4.5	53.6	11.8	.27	7.0
9. DeSean Jackson, Phil.	16	5.1	83.3	16.2	.56	11.7	45. Nate Washington, Tenn.	16	3.6	57.4	15.8	.19	6.9
10. Alshon Jeffery, Chi.	16	5.6	88.8	16.0	.46	11.6	46. Roddy White, Atl.	13	4.8	54.7	11.3	.23	6.9
11. Jordy Nelson, G.B.	16	5.3	82.1	15.5	.50	11.2	47. Doug Baldwin, Sea.	16	3.1	48.6	15.6	.31	6.7
12. Andre Johnson, Hou.	16	6.8	87.9	12.9	.31	10.7	48. Stevie Johnson, Buff.	12	4.3	49.8	11.5	.28	6.6
13. Wes Welker, Den.	13	5.6	59.8	10.7	.77	10.6	49. Steve Smith, Car.	15	4.3	49.7	11.6	.27	6.6
14. Julian Edelman, N.E.	11	7.9	79.5	10.1	.42	10.5	50. Aaron Dobson, N.E.	9	3.4	44.9	13.0	.33	6.5
15. Pierre Garcon, Wash.	16	7.1	84.1	11.9	.31	10.3	51. Dwayne Bowe, K.C.	15	3.8	44.9	11.8	.33	6.5
16. Vincent Jackson, T.B.	16	4.9	76.5	15.7	.44	10.3	52. Rueben Randle, NYG (3WR)	14	2.4	36.2	14.9	.43	6.2
17. Anquan Boldin, S.F.	16	5.3	73.7	13.9	.44	10.0	53. Austin Pettis, St.L.	9	3.2	33.3	10.3	.44	6.0
18. Keenan Allen, S.D.	15	4.6	67.5	14.7	.53	9.9	54. Tavon Austin, St.L.	13	3.1	32.2	10.5	.46	6.0
19. Larry Fitzgerald, Ariz.	16	5.1	59.6	11.6	.63	9.7	55. Jerome Simpson, Minn.	9	3.7	59.8	16.3	.00	6.0
20. Terrance Williams, Dall.	9	3.1	60.4	19.4	.48	8.9	56. Hakeem Nicks, NYG	15	3.7	59.7	16.0	.00	6.0
21. Victor Cruz, NYG	14	5.2	71.3	13.7	.29	8.8	57. Kenny Stills, N.O.	16	2.0	40.1	20.0	.31	5.9
22. Torrey Smith, Balt.	16	4.1	70.5	17.4	.27	8.7	58. Jeremy Kerley, NYJ	12	3.6	43.6	12.2	.25	5.9
23. T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	16	5.1	67.7	13.2	.31	8.6	59. Brandon LaFell, Car.	16	3.1	39.2	12.8	.31	5.8
24. Harry Douglas, Atl.	11	6.3	74.1	11.8	.18	8.5	60. Nate Burleson, Det.	9	4.3	51.2	11.8	.11	5.8
25. Riley Cooper, Phil.	16	2.9	52.2	17.8	.54	8.5	61. DeAndre Hopkins, Hou.	16	3.3	50.1	15.4	.13	5.8
26. Michael Floyd, Ariz.	16	4.1	65.1	16.0	.31	8.4	62. Mike Brown, Jac.	10	3.2	44.6	13.9	.20	5.7
27. Marques Colston, N.O.	15	5.0	62.9	12.6	.33	8.3	63. Robert Woods, Buff.	14	2.9	41.9	14.7	.24	5.6
28. Marvin Jones, Cin.	16	3.2	44.5	14.0	.63	8.2	64. Leonard Hankerson, Wash.	10	3.0	37.5	12.5	.30	5.6
29. Jarrett Boykin, G.B.	10	4.6	63.1	13.7	.30	8.1	65. Rishard Matthews, Mia.	9	3.7	40.6	11.1	.22	5.4
30. Brian Hartline, Mia.	16	4.8	63.5	13.4	.25	7.9	66. Jacoby Jones, Balt.	12	3.1	37.9	12.3	.25	5.3
31. Tiquan Underwood, T.B.	8	2.4	47.5	20.0	.50	7.8	67. Sidney Rice, Sea.	8	1.9	28.9	15.4	.38	5.1
32. Mike Wallace, Mia.	16	4.6	58.1	12.7	.31	7.7	68. Dexter McCcluster, K.C. (3WR)	15	3.5	34.1	9.6	.27	5.0
33. Denarius Moore, Oak.	13	3.5	53.5	15.1	.38	7.7	69. Stephen Hill, NYJ	8	2.9	42.5	14.8	.13	5.0
34. Jerricho Cotchery, Pitt. (3WR)	16	2.9	37.6	13.1	.63	7.5	70. Donnie Avery, K.C.	15	2.7	39.7	14.9	.13	4.8
35. Kendall Wright, Tenn.	16	5.9	67.4	11.5	.13	7.5	71. Santonio Holmes, NYJ	11	2.1	41.5	19.8	.09	4.7
36. Golden Tate, Sea.	16	4.0	56.1	14.0	.31	7.5	72. Lance Moore, N.O.	13	2.8	35.2	12.4	.15	4.4

WIDE RECEIVERS: RECEPTIONS

Wide receivers with the most receptions in 2013. Touchdowns include runs and returns.

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	2012 No-Yds-TD
1. Pierre Garcon, Wash.	113	1346	11.9	53	5	44-633-5
2. Antonio Brown, Pitt.	110	1499	13.6	56	9	66-787-5
3. Andre Johnson, Hou.	109	1407	12.9	62	5	112-1598-4
4. Julian Edelman, N.E.	105	1056	10.1	44	6	21-235-5
5. Brandon Marshall, Chi.	100	1295	12.9	44	12	118-1508-11
6. A.J. Green, Cin.	98	1426	14.6	82	11	97-1350-11
7. Kendall Wright, Tenn.	94	1079	11.5	45	2	64-626-4
8. Dez Bryant, Dall.	93	1233	13.3	79	13	92-1382-12
9. Demaryius Thomas, Den.	92	1430	15.5	78	14	94-1434-10
10. Alshon Jeffery, Chi.	89	1421	16.0	80	7	24-367-3
11. Josh Gordon, Clev.	87	1646	18.9	95	9	50-805-5
12. Eric Decker, Den.	87	1288	14.8	61	11	85-1064-13
13. Jordy Nelson, G.B.	85	1314	15.5	76	8	49-745-7
14. Anquan Boldin, S.F.	85	1179	13.9	63	7	65-921-4
15. Harry Douglas, Atl.	85	1067	12.6	80	2	38-396-1
16. Calvin Johnson, Det.	84	1492	17.8	87	12	122-1964-5
17. DeSean Jackson, Phil.	82	1332	16.2	61	9	45-700-2
18. T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	82	1083	13.2	73	5	50-861-8
19. Larry Fitzgerald, Ariz.	82	954	11.6	75	10	71-798-4
20. Vincent Jackson, T.B.	78	1224	15.7	60	7	72-1384-8
21. Brian Hartline, Mia.	76	1016	13.4	50	4	74-1083-1
22. Marques Colston, N.O.	75	943	12.6	35	5	83-1154-10
23. Victor Cruz, NYG	73	998	13.7	70	4	86-1092-10
24. Mike Wallace, Mia.	73	930	12.7	57	5	64-836-8
25. Wes Welker, Den.	73	778	10.7	33	10	118-1354-6
26. Keenan Allen, S.D.	71	1046	14.7	43	8	college
27. Greg Jennings, Minn.	68	804	11.8	70	4	36-366-4
28. Emmanuel Sanders, Pitt.	67	740	11.0	55	6	44-626-1
29. Cecil Shorts III, Jac.	66	777	11.8	59	3	55-979-7
30. Torrey Smith, Balt.	65	1128	17.4	74	4	49-855-8
31. Michael Floyd, Ariz.	65	1041	16.0	91	5	45-562-2
32. Golden Tate, Sea.	64	898	14.0	80	5	45-688-7
33. Steve Smith, Car.	64	745	11.6	44	4	73-1174-4
34. Roddy White, Atl.	63	711	11.3	39	3	92-1351-7
35. Rod Streater, Oak.	60	888	14.8	66	4	39-584-3
36. James Jones, G.B.	59	817	13.8	83	3	64-784-14
37. Nate Washington, Tenn.	58	919	15.8	77	3	46-746-4

RECEIVING INSIDE THE 10

Players targeted at least 8 times inside the 10. Touchdown figures include 2-point conversions.

	No	Att	Comp%	TD	TD%
1. WR Marvin Jones, Cin.	7	8	88%	4	50%
2. RB Danny Woodhead, S.D.	10	12	83%	3	25%
3. TE Charles Clay, Mia.	7	9	78%	4	44%
4. WR Marlon Brown, Balt.	8	11	73%	6	55%
5. WR Julian Edelman, N.E.	8	11	73%	6	55%
6. WR Wes Welker, Den.	10	15	67%	8	53%
7. WR Emmanuel Sanders, Pitt.	7	11	64%	5	45%
8. WR Brandon Marshall, Chi.	10	16	63%	9	56%
9. WR Riley Cooper, Phil.	5	8	63%	4	50%
10. WR Anquan Boldin, S.F.	5	8	63%	4	50%
11. WR Dez Bryant, Dall.	11	18	61%	9	50%
12. WR Jerricho Cotchery, Pitt.	6	10	60%	6	60%
13. TE Jimmy Graham, N.O.	10	17	59%	8	47%
14. TE Tony Gonzalez, Atl.	5	9	56%	4	44%
15. TE Jordan Cameron, Clev.	6	11	55%	5	45%
16. TE Jason Witten, Dall.	6	11	55%	5	45%
17. WR Demaryius Thomas, Den.	6	11	55%	4	36%
18. WR Andre Johnson, Hou.	6	11	55%	3	27%
19. WR Larry Fitzgerald, Ariz.	7	13	54%	4	31%
20. WR Eric Decker, Den.	7	14	50%	5	36%
21. TE Vernon Davis, S.F.	6	12	50%	5	42%
22. TE Martellus Bennett, Chi.	4	8	50%	4	50%
23. TE Jared Cook, St.L.	4	8	50%	4	50%
24. TE Joseph Fauria, Det.	6	13	46%	6	46%
25. WR Calvin Johnson, Det.	5	11	45%	4	36%
26. WR Jordy Nelson, G.B.	5	11	45%	2	18%
27. WR Pierre Garcon, Was.	5	11	45%	4	36%
28. TE Greg Olsen, Car.	4	9	44%	3	33%
29. WR James Jones, G.B.	4	9	44%	2	22%
30. RB Jamaal Charles, K.C.	4	9	44%	3	33%
31. TE Antonio Gates, S.D.	4	9	44%	3	33%
32. TE Delanie Walker, Ten.	4	9	44%	3	33%
33. WR A.J. Green, Cin.	5	12	42%	3	25%
34. WR Keenan Allen, S.D.	4	10	40%	4	40%
35. WR Alshon Jeffery, Chi.	4	12	33%	3	25%
36. WR Denarius Moore, Oak.	3	9	33%	3	33%
37. WR Cecil Shorts III, Jac.	3	11	27%	2	18%

TIGHT ENDS: RECEPTIONS

Tight ends with the most receptions in 2013.

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	2012 No-Yds-TD
1. Jimmy Graham, N.O.	86	1215	14.1	56	16	85-982-9
2. Tony Gonzalez, Atl.	83	859	10.3	25	8	93-930-8
3. Jordan Cameron, Clev.	80	917	11.5	53	7	20-226-1
4. Antonio Gates, S.D.	77	872	11.3	56	4	49-538-7
5. Jason Witten, Dall.	73	851	11.7	34	8	110-1039-3
6. Greg Olsen, Car.	73	816	11.2	31	6	69-843-5
7. Charles Clay, Mia.	69	759	11.0	67	7	18-212-2
8. Julius Thomas, Den.	65	788	12.1	74	12	0-0-0
9. Martellus Bennett, Chi.	65	759	11.7	43	5	55-626-5
10. Delanie Walker, Tenn.	60	571	9.5	33	6	21-344-3
11. Heath Miller, Pitt.	58	593	10.2	31	1	71-816-8
12. Tim Wright, T.B.	54	571	10.6	36	5	college
13. Scott Chandler, Buff.	53	655	12.4	33	2	43-571-6
14. Vernon Davis, S.F.	52	850	16.3	64	13	41-548-5
15. Coby Fleener, Ind.	52	608	11.7	44	4	26-281-2
16. Jared Cook, St.L.	51	671	13.2	47	5	44-523-4
17. Garrett Graham, Hou.	49	545	11.1	42	5	28-263-3
18. Brandon Myers, NYG	47	522	11.1	27	4	79-806-4
19. Jermaine Gresham, Cin.	46	458	10.0	30	4	64-737-5
20. Jordan Reed, Wash.	45	499	11.1	38	3	--
21. Brandon Pettigrew, Det.	41	416	10.1	31	2	59-567-3
22. Rob Gronkowski, N.E.	39	592	15.2	50	4	55-790-11
23. Rob Housler, Ariz.	39	454	11.6	31	1	45-417-0
24. Tyler Eifert, Cin.	39	445	11.4	61	2	college
25. Mychal Rivera, Oak.	38	407	10.7	37	4	college
26. Zach Ertz, Phil.	36	469	13.0	38	4	college
27. Zach Miller, Sea.	33	387	11.7	60	5	38-396-3
28. Brent Celek, Phil.	32	502	15.7	42	6	57-684-1
29. John Carlson, Minn.	32	344	10.8	30	1	8-43-0
30. Andrew Quarless, G.B.	32	312	9.8	22	2	0-0-0
31. Lance Kendricks, St.L.	32	258	8.1	21	4	42-519-4
32. Kellen Winslow, NYJ	31	388	12.5	34	2	1-12-0
33. Dallas Clark, Balt.	31	343	11.1	45	3	47-435-4
34. Kyle Rudolph, Minn.	30	313	10.4	31	3	53-493-9
35. Logan Paulsen, Wash.	28	267	9.5	33	3	25-308-1
36. Jeff Cumberland, NYJ	26	398	15.3	47	4	29-359-3
37. Sean McGrath, K.C.	26	302	11.6	25	2	0-0-0
38. Jim Dray, Ariz.	26	215	8.3	18	2	2-15-0

TIGHT ENDS: FANTASY POINTS PER START

Average fantasy points per game for tight ends who started at least 8 games in 2013, using the scoring system of 6 points for TDs and 1 for every 10 yards.

	Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD	FPG
1. Jimmy Graham, N.O.	16	5.4	75.9	14.1	1.00	13.6
2. Julius Thomas, Den.	14	4.6	56.3	12.1	.86	10.8
3. Vernon Davis, S.F.	16	3.3	53.1	16.3	.81	10.2
4. Jordan Cameron, Clev.	15	5.3	61.1	11.5	.47	8.9
5. Tony Gonzalez, Atl.	16	5.2	53.7	10.3	.52	8.5
6. Jason Witten, Dall.	16	4.6	53.2	11.7	.50	8.3
7. Charles Clay, Mia.	16	4.3	47.4	11.0	.44	7.4
8. Greg Olsen, Car.	16	4.6	51.0	11.2	.38	7.4
9. Antonio Gates, S.D.	16	4.8	54.5	11.3	.25	7.0
10. Tim Wright, T.B.	13	4.1	43.5	10.7	.38	6.7
11. Martellus Bennett, Chi.	16	4.1	47.4	11.7	.31	6.6
12. Garrett Graham, Hou.	13	3.8	41.9	11.1	.38	6.5
13. Delanie Walker, Tenn.	15	4.0	38.1	9.5	.40	6.2
14. Kyle Rudolph, Minn.	8	3.8	39.1	10.4	.38	6.2
15. Jared Cook, St.L.	16	3.2	41.9	13.2	.31	6.1
16. Coby Fleener, Ind.	16	3.3	38.0	11.7	.29	5.6
17. Marcedes Lewis, Jac.	11	2.3	32.6	14.4	.36	5.4
18. Brent Celek, Phil.	16	2.0	31.4	15.7	.38	5.4
19. Jermaine Gresham, Cin.	14	3.3	32.7	10.0	.29	5.0
20. Zach Miller, Sea.	14	2.4	27.6	11.7	.36	4.9
21. Scott Chandler, Buff.	16	3.3	40.9	12.4	.13	4.8
22. Brandon Myers, NYG	16	2.9	32.6	11.1	.25	4.8
23. Heath Miller, Pitt.	14	4.1	42.4	10.2	.07	4.7
24. Logan Paulsen, Wash.	8	2.6	30.3	11.5	.25	4.5
25. Zach Ertz, Phil.	16	2.3	29.3	13.0	.25	4.4
26. Dallas Clark, Balt.	12	2.6	28.6	11.1	.25	4.4
27. Rob Housler, Ariz.	12	3.3	37.8	11.6	.08	4.3
28. Jeff Cumberland, NYJ	15	1.7	26.5	15.3	.27	4.3
29. Kellen Winslow, NYJ	12	2.6	32.3	12.5	.17	4.2
30. Anthony Fasano, K.C.	9	2.6	22.2	8.7	.33	4.2
31. Mychal Rivera, Oak.	16	2.4	25.4	10.7	.25	4.0
32. Andrew Quarless, G.B.	10	2.8	28.4	10.1	.20	4.0
33. Brandon Pettigrew, Det.	14	2.9	29.7	10.1	.14	3.8
34. Tyler Eifert, Cin.	15	2.6	29.7	11.4	.13	3.8
35. Lance Kendricks, St.L.	15	2.1	17.2	8.1	.27	3.3
36. Ryan Griffin, Hou.	11	1.7	22.2	12.8	.09	2.8
37. Michael Hoomanawanui, N.E.	9	1.3	15.1	11.3	.11	2.2

TIGHT ENDS: YARDS PER START

Average yards per game for tight ends who started at least 8 games in 2013. For some "starts", player wasn't on the field for the first play but played extensively.

	Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD
1. Jimmy Graham, N.O.	16	5.4	75.9	14.1	1.00
2. Jordan Cameron, Clev.	15	5.3	61.1	11.5	.47
3. Julius Thomas, Den.	14	4.6	56.3	12.1	.86
4. Antonio Gates, S.D.	16	4.8	54.5	11.3	.25
5. Tony Gonzalez, Atl.	16	5.2	53.7	10.3	.52
6. Jason Witten, Dall.	16	4.6	53.2	11.7	.50
7. Vernon Davis, S.F.	16	3.3	53.1	16.3	.81
8. Greg Olsen, Car.	16	4.6	51.0	11.2	.38
9. Charles Clay, Mia.	16	4.3	47.4	11.0	.44
10. Martellus Bennett, Chi.	16	4.1	47.4	11.7	.31
11. Tim Wright, T.B.	13	4.1	43.5	10.7	.38
12. Heath Miller, Pitt.	14	4.1	42.4	10.2	.07
13. Jared Cook, St.L.	16	3.2	41.9	13.2	.31
14. Garrett Graham, Hou.	13	3.8	41.9	11.1	.38
15. Scott Chandler, Buff.	16	3.3	40.9	12.4	.13
16. Kyle Rudolph, Minn.	8	3.8	39.1	10.4	.38
17. Delanie Walker, Tenn.	15	4.0	38.1	9.5	.40
18. Coby Fleener, Ind.	16	3.3	38.0	11.7	.29
19. Rob Housler, Ariz.	12	3.3	37.8	11.6	.08
20. Jermaine Gresham, Cin.	14	3.3	32.7	10.0	.29
21. Marcedes Lewis, Jac.	11	2.3	32.6	14.4	.36
22. Brandon Myers, NYG	16	2.9	32.6	11.1	.25
23. Kellen Winslow, NYJ	12	2.6	32.3	12.5	.17
24. Brent Celek, Phil.	16	2.0	31.4	15.7	.38
25. Logan Paulsen, Wash.	8	2.6	30.3	11.5	.25
26. Brandon Pettigrew, Det.	14	2.9	29.7	10.1	.14
27. Tyler Eifert, Cin.	15	2.6	29.7	11.4	.13
28. Zach Ertz, Phil.	16	2.3	29.3	13.0	.25
29. Dallas Clark, Balt.	12	2.6	28.6	11.1	.25
30. Andrew Quarless, G.B.	10	2.8	28.4	10.1	.20
31. Zach Miller, Sea.	14	2.4	27.6	11.7	.36
32. Jeff Cumberland, NYJ	15	1.7	26.5	15.3	.27
33. Mychal Rivera, Oak.	16	2.4	25.4	10.7	.25
34. Anthony Fasano, K.C.	9	2.6	22.2	8.7	.33
35. Ryan Griffin, Hou.	11	1.7	22.2	12.8	.09

TIGHT ENDS: TOUCHDOWNS PER START

Touchdowns per game for tight ends who started at least 8 games in 2013. (2-point conversions counted as a third of a touchdown.)

	Starts	No	Yards	Avg	TD
1. Jimmy Graham, N.O.	16	5.4	75.9	14.1	1.00
2. Julius Thomas, Den.	14	4.6	56.3	12.1	.86
3. Vernon Davis, S.F.	16	3.3	53.1	16.3	.81
4. Tony Gonzalez, Atl.	16	5.2	53.7	10.3	.52
5. Jason Witten, Dall.	16	4.6	53.2	11.7	.50
6. Jordan Cameron, Clev.	15	5.3	61.1	11.5	.47
7. Charles Clay, Mia.	16	4.3	47.4	11.0	.44
8. Delanie Walker, Tenn.	15	4.0	38.1	9.5	.40
9. Tim Wright, T.B.	13	4.1	43.5	10.7	.38
10. Garrett Graham, Hou.	13	3.8	41.9	11.1	.38
11. Greg Olsen, Car.	16	4.6	51.0	11.2	.38
12. Kyle Rudolph, Minn.	8	3.8	39.1	10.4	.38
13. Brent Celek, Phil.	16	2.0	31.4	15.7	.38
14. Marcedes Lewis, Jac.	11	2.3	32.6	14.4	.36
15. Zach Miller, Sea.	14	2.4	27.6	11.7	.36
16. Anthony Fasano, K.C.	9	2.6	22.2	8.7	.33
17. Martellus Bennett, Chi.	16	4.1	47.4	11.7	.31
18. Jared Cook, St.L.	16	3.2	41.9	13.2	.31
19. Coby Fleener, Ind.	16	3.3	38.0	11.7	.29
20. Jermaine Gresham, Cin.	14	3.3	32.7	10.0	.29
21. Jeff Cumberland, NYJ	15	1.7	26.5	15.3	.27
22. Lance Kendricks, St.L.	15	2.1	17.2	8.1	.27
23. Antonio Gates, S.D.	16	4.8	54.5	11.3	.25
24. Brandon Myers, NYG	16	2.9	32.6	11.1	.25
25. Logan Paulsen, Wash.	8	2.6	30.3	11.5	.25
26. Zach Ertz, Phil.	16	2.3	29.3	13.0	.25
27. Dallas Clark, Balt.	12	2.6	28.6	11.1	.25
28. Mychal Rivera, Oak.	16	2.4	25.4	10.7	.25
29. Andrew Quarless, G.B.	10	2.8	28.4	10.1	.20
30. Kellen Winslow, NYJ	12	2.6	32.3	12.5	.17
31. Brandon Pettigrew, Det.	14	2.9	29.7	10.1	.14
32. Tyler Eifert, Cin.	15	2.6	29.7	11.4	.13
33. Scott Chandler, Buff.	16	3.3	40.9	12.4	.13
34. Jim Dray, Ariz.	16	1.6	13.4	8.3	.13
35. Michael Hoomanawanui, N.E.	9	1.3	15.1	11.3	.11
36. Ryan Griffin, Hou.	11	1.7	22.2	12.8	.09
37. Rob Housler, Ariz.	12	3.3	37.8	11.6	.08

KICKING STATISTICS, TEAM

	XP-XPA	FG-FGA	10-39	40-49	50+	Pts	Pts
1. New England	44-44	38-41	22-22	11-13	5-6	158	153
2. Denver	75-75	25-26	11-11	8-8	6-7	150	133
3. San Diego	42-42	34-37	23-26	9-9	2-2	144	114
4. Seattle	44-44	33-35	19-20	11-12	3-3	143	118
5. Green Bay	42-42	33-37	22-22	6-8	5-7	141	113
6. Baltimore	26-26	38-41	22-23	10-11	6-7	140	132
7. San Francisco	44-44	32-36	18-19	10-11	4-6	140	131
8. Indianapolis	34-34	35-40	16-17	15-17	4-6	139	115
9. Buffalo	32-32	33-36	19-19	10-11	4-6	131	102
10. Dallas	47-47	28-30	12-13	10-10	6-7	131	124
11. Pittsburgh	39-39	30-32	22-24	8-8	0-0	129	118
12. Arizona	37-37	30-36	16-19	11-12	3-5	127	100
13. NY Jets	27-27	33-36	18-19	12-14	3-3	126	93
14. Chicago	45-46	26-29	17-18	6-7	3-4	123	121
15. Minnesota	43-43	26-30	19-19	5-6	2-5	121	141
16. New Orleans	48-48	24-32	13-17	10-14	1-1	120	111
17. Kansas City	52-52	22-28	15-16	6-8	1-4	118	101
18. Tennessee	41-41	25-29	18-19	5-7	2-3	116	110
19. Carolina	42-42	24-27	13-14	5-7	6-6	114	91
20. Philadelphia	45-45	23-28	15-16	7-10	1-2	114	106
21. St. Louis	34-34	26-28	17-17	8-9	1-2	112	95
22. Atlanta	39-39	24-27	16-17	5-5	3-5	111	143
23. Miami	33-33	26-34	15-17	8-10	3-7	111	98
24. Cincinnati	52-53	18-22	8-9	7-9	3-4	106	133
25. Houston	26-26	26-35	13-13	12-17	1-5	104	138
26. NY Giants	31-31	23-26	15-16	7-8	1-2	100	145
27. Oakland	37-37	21-30	10-12	8-11	3-7	100	118
28. Tampa Bay	31-31	23-29	15-17	4-6	4-6	100	123
29. Detroit	42-43	19-24	12-14	4-7	3-3	99	134
30. Cleveland	33-33	21-26	12-13	7-9	2-4	96	116
31. Washington	33-33	21-26	15-16	5-7	1-3	96	122
32. Jacksonville	22-23	23-25	15-15	4-5	4-5	91	93

KICKING STATISTICS, INDIVIDUAL

	XP-XPA	FG-FGA	10-39	40-49	50+	Pts
1. Stephen Gostkowski, N.E.	44-44	38-41	22-22	11-13	5-6	158
2. Matt Prater, Den.	75-75	25-26	11-11	8-8	6-7	150
3. Nick Novak, S.D.	42-42	34-37	23-26	9-9	2-2	144
4. Steven Hauschka, Sea.	44-44	33-35	19-20	11-12	3-3	143
5. Mason Crosby, G.B.	42-42	33-37	22-22	6-8	5-7	141
6. Justin Tucker, Balt.	26-26	38-41	22-23	10-11	6-7	140
7. Phil Dawson, S.F.	44-44	32-36	18-19	10-11	4-6	140
8. Adam Vinatieri, Ind.	34-34	35-40	16-17	15-17	4-6	139
9. Dan Carpenter, Buff.	32-32	33-36	19-19	10-11	4-6	131
10. Dan Bailey, Dall.	47-47	28-30	12-13	10-10	6-7	131
11. Shaun Suisham, Pitt.	39-39	30-32	22-24	8-8	0-0	129
12. Jay Feely, Ariz.	37-37	30-36	16-19	11-12	3-5	127
13. Nick Folk, NYJ	27-27	33-36	18-19	12-14	3-3	126
14. Robbie Gould, Chi.	45-46	26-29	17-18	6-7	3-4	123
15. Blair Walsh, Minn.	43-43	26-30	19-19	5-6	2-5	121
16. Ryan Succop, K.C.	52-52	22-28	15-16	6-8	1-4	118
17. Rob Bironas, Tenn.	41-41	25-29	18-19	5-7	2-3	116
18. Graham Gano, Car.	42-42	24-27	13-14	5-7	6-6	114
19. Alex Henery, Phil.	45-45	23-28	15-16	7-10	1-2	114
20. Greg Zuerlein, St.L.	34-34	26-28	17-17	8-9	1-2	112
21. Matt Bryant, Atl.	39-39	24-27	16-17	5-5	3-5	111
22. Caleb Sturgis, Mia.	33-33	26-34	15-17	8-10	3-7	111
23. Garrett Hartley, N.O.	41-41	22-30	12-16	9-13	1-1	107
24. Mike Nugent, Cin.	52-53	18-22	8-9	7-9	3-4	106
25. Randy Bullock, Hou.	26-26	26-35	13-13	12-17	1-5	104
26. Josh Brown, NYG	31-31	23-26	15-16	7-8	1-2	100
27. Sebastian Janikowski, Oak.	37-37	21-30	10-12	8-11	3-7	100
28. Rian Lindell, T.B.	31-31	23-29	15-17	4-6	4-6	100
29. David Akers, Det.	42-43	19-24	12-14	4-7	3-3	99
30. Billy Cundiff, Clev.	32-32	21-26	12-13	7-9	2-4	95
31. Josh Scobee, Jac.	22-23	23-25	15-15	4-5	4-5	91
32. Kai Forbath, Wash.	26-26	18-22	13-14	4-6	1-2	80
33. John Potter, Wash.	7-7	3-4	2-2	1-1	0-1	16
34. Shayne Graham, N.O.	7-7	2-2	1-1	1-1	0-0	13
35. Spencer Lanning, Clev.	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1

TEAM OVERVIEW INSIDE 10-YARD LINE

Team-by-team summaries for plays inside the 10 in 2013, both rushing and passing. The "TD/2" columns show combined number of touchdowns and 2-point conversions.

	Run Att	Run Yards	Run Avg	Run TD/2	Pass Comp	Pass Att	Pass Pct	Pass TD/2	Pass Int	Pass Sack
Arizona	29	50	1.7	11	16	38	42.1	10	1	0
Atlanta	26	33	1.3	5	25	49	51.0	14	2	2
Baltimore	38	52	1.4	8	23	40	57.5	15	0	1
Buffalo	46	107	2.3	12	8	21	38.1	6	1	2
Carolina	46	93	2.0	11	11	23	47.8	9	0	2
Chicago	42	75	1.8	11	26	49	53.1	22	2	0
Cincinnati	34	71	2.1	13	20	36	55.6	13	3	3
Cleveland	34	53	1.6	4	17	43	39.5	13	0	1
Dallas	30	54	1.8	12	27	45	60.0	20	0	2
Denver	44	97	2.2	14	40	61	65.6	27	0	1
Detroit	30	31	1.0	11	19	40	47.5	15	0	1
Green Bay	42	106	2.5	13	24	56	42.9	12	2	6
Houston	29	71	2.4	7	19	37	51.4	12	1	0
Indianapolis	27	75	2.8	11	19	41	46.3	12	2	4
Jacksonville	23	21	.9	7	13	43	30.2	6	2	1
Kansas City	40	84	2.1	13	19	32	59.4	11	1	1
Miami	36	78	2.2	8	18	27	66.7	12	0	0
Minnesota	33	91	2.8	13	9	29	31.0	6	2	1
New England	40	83	2.1	15	20	41	48.8	14	1	3
New Orleans	39	94	2.4	10	24	42	57.1	16	1	4
NY Giants	29	35	1.2	10	10	20	50.0	6	0	1
NY Jets	35	81	2.3	10	8	24	33.3	5	0	0
Oakland	37	69	1.9	12	10	29	34.5	6	0	1
Philadelphia	42	72	1.7	14	16	32	50.0	12	0	4
Pittsburgh	29	45	1.6	9	22	40	55.0	14	0	4
San Diego	34	58	1.7	8	25	43	58.1	14	1	1
San Francisco	48	82	1.7	12	14	30	46.7	10	2	1
Seattle	45	80	1.8	12	14	26	56.0	12	1	5
St. Louis	34	72	2.1	9	19	42	45.2	17	0	3
Tampa Bay	17	26	1.5	4	14	26	53.8	12	0	3
Tennessee	34	86	2.5	10	17	29	58.6	10	0	4
Washington	30	57	1.9	11	17	37	45.9	13	0	1

TEAM OFFENSIVE STATISTICS

Per-game yardage and scoring averages from 2013. Yards lost on sacks aren't included in passing (but are included in totals).

	PER-GAME AVERAGES				NFL RANK			
	Yards	Run	Pass	Pts	Yards	Run	Pass	Pts
Arizona	346.4	96.3	268.2	23.7	12	23	13	16T
Atlanta	343.1	77.9	263.8	22.1	14	32	4	20
Baltimore	307.4	83.0	244.6	20.0	29	30	19	25
Buffalo	338.1	144.2	210.8	21.2	19	2	28	22
Carolina	316.8	126.6	211.2	22.9	26	11	27	18
Chicago	381.8	114.3	278.1	27.8	8	16	7	2
Cincinnati	368.4	109.7	270.1	26.9	10	18	11	6T
Cleveland	338.9	86.4	273.3	19.3	18	27T	9	27
Dallas	341.3	94.2	264.1	27.4	16	24	14	5
Denver	457.3	117.1	348.3	37.9	1	15	1	1
Detroit	392.1	112.0	290.6	24.7	6	17	3	13
Green Bay	400.3	133.5	283.6	26.1	3	7	5	8T
Houston	347.3	108.9	261.4	17.3	11	20T	15	31
Indianapolis	341.8	108.9	247.0	24.4	15	20T	18	14T
Jacksonville	293.8	78.8	234.4	15.4	31	31	21	32
Kansas City	337.3	128.5	222.6	26.9	21	10	25	6T
Miami	312.9	90.0	247.9	19.8	27	26	17	26
Minnesota	344.3	130.1	227.8	24.4	13	8	23	14T
New England	384.5	129.1	271.4	27.8	7	9	10	3
New Orleans	399.4	92.1	322.6	25.9	4	25	2	10
NY Giants	307.5	83.3	242.2	18.4	28	29	20	28
NY Jets	318.1	134.9	204.4	18.1	25	6	30	29
Oakland	333.8	125.0	226.8	20.1	23	12	24	24
Philadelphia	417.3	160.4	275.4	27.6	2	1	8	4
Pittsburgh	337.5	86.4	269.1	23.7	20	27T	12	16T
San Diego	393.3	122.8	279.9	24.8	5	13	6	12
San Francisco	323.8	137.6	200.6	25.4	24	3	31	11
Seattle	339.0	136.8	219.3	26.1	17	4	26	8T
St. Louis	304.8	109.5	210.0	21.8	30	19	29	21
Tampa Bay	277.0	100.8	198.8	18.0	32	22	32	30
Tennessee	336.9	118.4	231.9	22.6	22	14	22	19
Washington	369.7	135.3	253.6	20.9	9	5	16	23

DEFENSIVE AND SPECIAL TEAMS SCORING

How defenses performed in 2013, based on the scoring system of 6 points for touchdowns, 1 for sacks and 2 points for takeaways and safeties. Asterisk (*) indicates total includes fake FG (6 points).

	Sack	Fumbles	Int	Blocked Kick Ret	Kick Returns	Fumble Returns	Int Returns	Total TDs	Safeties	Fantasy Points	2012 Sacks	2012 Fumbles	2012 Int	2012 TD	2012 FanPts
1. Kansas City	47	15	21	0	4	2	5	11	0	185	27	6	7	1	61
2. Seattle	44	11	28	0	0	1	3	4	2	150	36	13	18	6	134
3. St. Louis	53	15	14	0	1	3	2	6	1	149	52	4	17	6	132
4. Cincinnati	43	11	20	2	0	1	4	7	0	147	51	16	14	4	135
5. Carolina	60	10	20	0	0	0	4	4	0	144	39	12	11	3	105
6. Arizona	47	10	20	0	0	1	4	5	2	141	38	11	22	4	128
7. Buffalo	57	7	23	0	0	1	2	3	0	135	36	9	12	4	104
8. San Francisco	38	12	18	0	0	3	2	5	1	130	38	11	14	3	108
9. Chicago	31	9	19	0	1	1	5	7	0	129	41	20	24	10	189
10. Dallas	34	13	15	0	1	3	2	6	0	126	34	9	7	4	90
11. New England	48	12	17	0	0	1	2	3	0	124	37	21	20	7	163
12. Denver	41	9	17	1	2	1	1	5	0	123	52	8	16	8	152
13. Cleveland	40	7	14	0	1	1	3	6	0	118	38	12	17	3	114
14. Washington	36	10	16	0	0	1	4	5	0	118	32	10	21	4	118
15. Tampa Bay	35	10	21	0	0	0	3	3	1	117	27	8	18	4	103
16. Philadelphia	37	12	19	0	0	1	1	2	2	115	30	5	8	1	62
17. Indianapolis	42	12	15	1	0	0	1	2	2	112	32	3	12	6	98
18. NY Giants	34	12	17	1	0	0	2	3	0	110	33	14	21	3	121
19. Baltimore	40	8	16	0	2	0	1	3	0	106	37	12	13	6	123
20. Green Bay	44	11	11	0	1	2	0	3	0	106	47	5	18	5	123
21. Oakland	38	13	9	1	0	2	1	4	0	106	25	8	11	0	63
22. Detroit	33	7	15	0	2	1	1	4	2	105	34	6	11	0	70
23. Minnesota	41	8	12	0	3	1	0	4	0	105	44	12	10	5	118
24. Miami	42	6	18	0	0	0	2	2	1	104	42	6	10	3	92
25. Tennessee	36	12	13	0	0	2	1	3	0	104	39	5	19	9	143
26. Pittsburgh	34	10	10	0	1	0	3	4	1	100	37	10	10	1	83
27. Atlanta	32	11	10	0	0	1	2	3	0	92	29	11	20	2	103
28. Jacksonville	31	10	11	0	0	1	1	2	3	91	20	11	12	1	72
29. New Orleans	49	7	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	30	11	15	5	112
30. NY Jets	41	2	13	1	0	0	1	2	1	85	30	12	11	5	108
31. San Diego	35	6	11	0	0	0	1	1	0	75	38	14	14	9	150
32. Houston	32	4	7	0	1	0	1	2	1	68	44	14	15	5	134

PLAYOFF GAME SUMMARIES FROM 2013 SEASON

Wild Card Round

COLTS 45, KANSAS CITY 44

Kansas City 10 21 10 3-44
Indianapolis 7 3 21 14-45

KC—Bowe 6 pass from Smith (Succop kick).
IND—Hilton 10 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick).
KC—FG Succop 19.
KC—Avery 79 pass from Smith (Succop kick).
KC—Sherman 5 pass from Smith (Succop kick).
IND—FG Vinatieri 37.
KC—Davis 4 run (Succop kick).
KC—Davis 10 pass from Smith (Succop kick).
IND—Brown 10 run (Vinatieri kick).
IND—Brown 3 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick).
KC—FG Succop 42.
IND—Fleener 12 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick).
IND—Luck 5 fumble return (Vinatieri kick).
KC—FG Succop 43.
IND—Hilton 64 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Kansas City, Davis 18-67, Smith 8-57, Charles 3-18, Gray 2-5, McCluster 1-3, Indianapolis, Brown 11-55, Luck 7-45, Richardson 1-0. PASSING—Kansas City, Smith 30-46-0-378, Indianapolis, Luck 29-45-3-443. RECEIVING—Kansas City, Bowe 8-150, McCluster 7-52, Davis 7-33, Hanningway 2-30, Fasano 2-6, Sherman 2-1, Avery 1-79, Jenkins 1-27, Indianapolis, Hilton 13-224, Fleener 5-46, Brazil 4-54, Brown 4-47, Whalen 2-26, Rogers 1-46. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

SAINTS 26, EAGLES 24

New Orleans 0 6 14 6-26
Philadelphia 0 7 7 10-24

NO—FG Graham 36.
PHI—Cooper 10 pass from Foles (Henery kick).
NO—FG Graham 46.
NO—Moore 24 pass from Brees (Graham kick).
PHI—Ingram 4 run (Graham kick).
PHI—McCoy 1 run (Henery kick).
PHI—FG Henery 31.
NO—FG Graham 36.
PHI—Ertz 3 pass from Foles (Henery kick).
NO—FG Graham 32.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—New Orleans, Ingram 18-97, Robinson 8-45, Spolles 4-29, Brees 5-13, Sills 1-1. Philadelphia, McCoy 21-77, Foles 1-3. PASSING—New Orleans, Brees 20-30-2-250, Philadelphia, Foles 23-33-0-195. RECEIVING—New Orleans, Spolles 4-31, Graham 3-44, Sills 3-35, Ingram 3-17, Moore 2-31, Colston 2-16, Meachem 1-40, Watson 1-27, Hill 1-9. Philadelphia, Cooper 6-68, Avant 5-21, McCoy 4-15, Jackson 3-53, Ertz 3-22, Celek 2-16. MISSED FIELD GOALS—Philadelphia, Henery 48 (WL).

CHARGERS 27, BENGALS 10

San Diego 7 0 10 10-27
Cincinnati 0 10 0 0-10

SD—Woodhead 5 run (Novak kick).
CIN—Gresham 4 pass from Dalton (Nugent kick).
CIN—FG Nugent 46.
SD—Green 4 pass from Rivers (Novak kick).
SD—FG Novak 25.
SD—FG Novak 23.
SD—Brown 58 run (Novak kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—San Diego, Brown 8-77, Woodhead 15-54, Mathews 13-52, Royal 1-9, Rivers 2-4, McClain 1-0. Cincinnati, Bernard 12-45, Green-Ellis 8-42, Dalton 5-26. PASSING—San Diego, Rivers 12-16-0-128, Cincinnati, Dalton 29-51-2-334. RECEIVING—San Diego, Green 3-34, Allen 2-21, Woodhead 2-14, Mathews 2-12, Royal 1-33, Brown 1-9, Gates 1-5. Cincinnati, Jones 8-130, Bernard 7-73, Gresham 7-64, Green 3-34, Hawkins 3-20, Sanu 1-13. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

49ERS 23, PACKERS 20

San Francisco 6 7 0 10-23
Green Bay 0 10 0 10-20

SF—FG Dawson 22.
SF—FG Dawson 25.
GB—Nelson 5 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick).
SF—Gore 10 run (Dawson kick).
GB—FG Crosby 34.
GB—Kuhn 1 run (Crosby kick).
SF—Davis 28 pass from Kaepernick (Dawson kick).
GB—FG Crosby 24.
SF—FG Dawson 33.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—San Francisco, Kaepernick 7-98, Gore 20-66, Hunter 2-4, Patton 1(-1), Green Bay, Lacy 21-81, Starks 5-29, Rodgers 2-11, Kuhn 2-2, Cobb 1-1. PASSING—San Francisco, Kaepernick 16-30-1-227, Green Bay, Rodgers 17-26-0-177. RECEIVING—San Francisco, Crabtree 8-125, Boldin 3-38, Davis 2-37, Gore 1-11, Dixon 1-10, Celek 1-6, Green Bay, Nelson 7-62, Cobb 2-51, Jones 2-20, Kuhn 2-16, Lacy 2-7, Starks 1-13, Quarless 1-8. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

Divisional Round

SEAHAWKS 23, SAINTS 15

New Orleans 0 0 0 15-15
Seattle 6 10 0 7-23

SEA—FG Hauschka 38.
SEA—FG Hauschka 49.
SEA—Lynch 15 run (Hauschka kick).
SEA—FG Hauschka 26.
NO—Robinson 1 run (Ingram run).
SEA—Lynch 31 run (Hauschka kick).
NO—Colston 9 pass from Brees (Graham kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—New Orleans, Robinson 13-57, Ingram 10-49, Spolles 3-2, Seattle, Lynch 28-140, Wilson 3-16, Turbin 3-9, Harvin 1-3. PASSING—New Orleans, Brees 24-43-0-309, Seattle, Wilson 9-18-0-103. RECEIVING—New Orleans, Colston 11-144, Spolles 5-32, Meachem 2-69, Moore 2-20, Hill 1-23, Robinson 1-13, Graham 1-8, Watson 1-0, Seattle, Harvin 3-21, Baldwin 2-30, Kears 1-25, Tate 1-13, Miller 1-11, Lynch 1-3. MISSED FIELD GOALS—New Orleans, Graham 45 (WL), 48 (WL).

PATRIOTS 43, COLTS 22

Indianapolis 7 5 10 0-22
New England 14 7 8 14-43

NE—Blount 2 run (Gostkowski kick).
NE—Blount 2 run (Gostkowski kick).
IND—Brazil 38 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick).
NE—Blount 2 run (Gostkowski kick).
IND—FG Vinatieri 36.

IND—Safety

IND—FG Vinatieri 21.
NE—Ridley 3 run (Ridley run).
IND—Brazil 35 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick).
NE—Blount 73 run (Gostkowski kick).
NE—Ridley 1 run (Gostkowski kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Indianapolis, Brown 17-63, Luck 1-5, Richardson 3-1, New England, Blount 24-166, Ridley 14-52, Vereen 5-17, Allen 1-0, Develin 1-0, Brady 1(-1). PASSING—Indianapolis, Luck 20-41-4-331, New England, Brady 13-25-0-198. RECEIVING—Indianapolis, Fleener 6-74, Whalen 5-67, Hilton 4-103, Brazil 2-73, Doyle 1-7, Havili 1-4, Brown 1-3. New England, Edelman 6-84, Amendola 3-77, Vereen 2-16, Collie 1-15, Hoomanawanui 1-6. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

49ERS 23, PANTHERS 10

San Francisco 6 7 7 3-23
Carolina 0 10 0 0-10

SF—FG Dawson 49.
SF—FG Dawson 33.
CAR—Smith 31 pass from Newton (Gano kick).
CAR—FG Gano 24.
SF—Davis 1 pass from Kaepernick (Dawson kick).
SF—Kaepernick 4 run (Dawson kick).
SF—FG Dawson 34.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—San Francisco, Gore 17-84, Hunter 9-27, Kaepernick 8-15, Carolina, Newton 10-54, Tolbert 8-20, Williams 5-13, LaFell 1-6. PASSING—San Francisco, Kaepernick 15-28-0-196, Boldin 0-1-0-0, Lee 0-1-0-0, Carolina, Newton 16-25-2-267. RECEIVING—San Francisco, Boldin 8-136, Crabtree 3-26, Patton 1-23, Gore 1-8, Tukuafu 1-2, Davis 1-1, Carolina, Ginn 4-104, Smith 4-74, Olsen 4-55, LaFell 4-34. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

BRONCOS 24, CHARGERS 17

San Diego 0 0 0 17-17
Denver 7 7 3 7-24

DEN—Thomas 2 pass from Manning (Prater kick).
DEN—Welker 3 pass from Manning (Prater kick).
DEN—FG Prater 45.
SD—Allen 16 pass from Rivers (Novak kick).
DEN—Moreno 3 run (Prater kick).
SD—Allen 16 pass from Rivers (Novak kick).
SD—FG Novak 30.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—San Diego, Woodhead 9-29, Mathews 5-26, Rivers 3-10, Brown 1-0, Denver, Moreno 23-82, Ball 10-52, Manning 1(-1). PASSING—San Diego, Rivers 18-27-0-217, Denver, Manning 25-36-1-230. RECEIVING—San Diego, Allen 6-142, Brown 4-18, Woodhead 3-10, Gates 2-10, Green 2-7, Royal 1-30, Denver, D Thomas 8-54, J Thomas 6-76, Welker 6-38, Decker 2-32, Caldwell 1-15, Moreno 1-12, Green 1-3. MISSED FIELD GOALS—San Diego, Novak 53 (WL), Denver, Prater 47 (WL).

Conference Championships

BRONCOS 26, PATRIOTS 16

New England 0 3 0 13-16
Denver 3 10 7 6-26

DEN—FG Prater 27.
DEN—Tanne 1 pass from Manning (Prater kick).

NE—FG Gostkowski 47.

DEN—FG Prater 35.
DEN—D Thomas 3 pass from Manning (Prater kick).
DEN—FG Prater 19.
NE—Edelman 7 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick).
DEN—FG Prater 54.
NE—Brady 5 run (run failed).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—New England, Vereen 4-34, Ridley 5-17, Brady 2-7, Blount 5-6, Denver, Moreno 14-59, Ball 12-43, Green 1-6, Manning 1(-1). PASSING—New England, Brady 24-38-0-277, Denver, Manning 32-43-0-400. RECEIVING—New England, Edelman 10-89, Vereen 5-59, Collie 4-57, Dobson 2-33, Hoomanawanui 2-33, Mulligan 1-6, Denver, J Thomas 8-85, D Thomas 7-134, Decker 5-73, Welker 4-38, Ball 3-13, Tanne 2-24, Moreno 2-22, Caldwell 1-11. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

SEAHAWKS 23, 49ERS 17

San Francisco 3 7 7 0-17
Seattle 0 3 10 10-23

SF—FG Dawson 25.
SF—Dixon 1 run (Dawson kick).
SEA—FG Hauschka 32.
SEA—Lynch 40 run (Hauschka kick).
SF—Blount 26 pass from Kaepernick (Dawson kick).
SEA—FG Hauschka 40.
SEA—Kearse 35 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick).
SEA—FG Hauschka 47.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—San Francisco, Kaepernick 11-130, Hunter 3-16, Gore 11-14, Dixon 2-1, James 1-0, Seattle, Lynch 22-109, Turbin 2-6, Wilson 5-0. PASSING—San Francisco, Kaepernick 14-24-2-153, Seattle, Wilson 16-25-0-215. RECEIVING—San Francisco, Boldin 5-53, Crabtree 4-52, Davis 2-16, Gore 1-17, McDonald 1-13, Patton 1-2, Seattle, Baldwin 6-106, Tate 4-31, Miller 3-25, Kearse 2-44, Turbin 1-9. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

Super Bowl XLVIII

SEAHAWKS 43, BRONCOS 8

Seattle 8 14 14 7-43
Denver 0 0 8 0-8

SEA—Safety.
SEA—FG Hauschka 31.
SEA—FG Hauschka 33.
SEA—Lynch 1 run (Hauschka kick).
SEA—Smith 69 INT return (Hauschka kick).
SEA—Harvin 87 kick return (Hauschka kick).
SEA—Kearse 23 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick).
DEN—Thomas 14 pass from Manning (Welker pass from Manning).
SEA—Baldwin 10 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Seattle, Harvin 2-45, Lynch 15-39, Wilson 3-26, Turbin 9-25, Denver, Moreno 5-17, Anderson 2-9, Ball 6-1, Manning 1-0. PASSING—Seattle, Wilson 18-25-0-206, Jackson 0-1-0-0, Denver, Manning 33-49-2-280. RECEIVING—Seattle, Baldwin 5-65, Kearse 4-65, Tate 3-17, Wilson 2-17, Lockette 1-19, Miller 1-10, Robinson 1-7, Harvin 1-5, Denver, D Thomas 13-118, Welker 8-84, J Thomas 4-27, Moreno 3-20, Tanne 2-9, Ball 2-2, Anderson 1-14, Decker 1-6. MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

KICKOFF RETURNS, TEAM

How teams fared on kickoff returns in 2013.

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	2012 Avg-Long-TD
1. Kansas City	44	1316	29.9	108t	2	21.6-41-0
2. Baltimore	44	1163	26.4	77t	1	27.3-108t-2
3. Jacksonville	41	1060	25.9	59	0	21.0-38-0
4. Dallas	45	1147	25.5	90	0	20.6-44-0
5. Cincinnati	39	980	25.1	71	0	22.6-45-0
6. Denver	39	974	25.0	105t	1	23.1-105t-1
7. Minnesota	66	1646	24.9	109t	2	26.6-105t-1
8. Tennessee	44	1096	24.9	95	0	23.6-105t-1
9. Houston	51	1257	24.6	50	0	21.7-54-0
10. Atlanta	27	659	24.4	50	0	23.7-77-0
11. Detroit	34	816	24.0	98t	1	20.0-40-0
12. New England	39	935	24.0	83	0	21.2-104t-1
13. Tampa Bay	34	811	23.9	44	0	20.3-55-0
14. Indianapolis	43	1011	23.5	39	0	22.3-101t-1
15. Cleveland	40	931	23.3	86	0	25.4-74-0
16. Chicago	70	1614	23.1	80	0	19.8-40-0
17. New Orleans	22	506	23.0	82	0	24.8-75-0
18. NY Jets	45	1021	22.7	42	0	26.2-100t-1
19. San Francisco	32	726	22.7	47	0	24.8-94-0
20. St. Louis	37	835	22.6	32	0	21.0-48-0
21. Pittsburgh	43	962	22.4	46	0	25.3-68-0
22. Oakland	54	1201	22.2	41	0	22.3-51-0
23. San Diego	32	707	22.1	42	0	23.9-99t-1
24. Carolina	28	612	21.9	38	0	22.2-35-0
25. Miami	42	901	21.5	50	0	27.1-96t-1
26. Philadelphia	37	790	21.4	47	0	21.0-44-0
27. NY Giants	44	933	21.2	56	0	26.2-97t-1
28. Seattle	33	698	21.2	58	0	27.1-98t-1
29. Buffalo	23	469	20.4	28	0	27.0-89t-1
30. Green Bay	39	791	20.3	70	0	25.0-46-0
31. Arizona	27	540	20.0	46	0	23.3-65-0
32. Washington	51	1018	20.0	39	0	23.5-55-0

KICKOFF RETURNS, INDIVIDUAL

Return averages for players who returned at least 11 kickoffs in 2013.

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
1. WR C. Patterson, Minn.	43	1393	32.4	109t	2
2. WR Dwayne Harris, Dall.	28	857	30.6	90	0
3. FS Quintin Demps, K.C.	33	992	30.1	95t	1
4. RB Leon Washington, Tenn.	16	481	30.1	95	0
5. WR Jeremy Ross, Det.	15	439	29.3	98t	1
6. RB LeGarrette Blount, N.E.	17	494	29.1	83	0
7. WR Jacoby Jones, Balt.	31	892	28.8	77t	1
8. WR Trindon Holliday, Den.	28	775	27.7	105t	1
9. WR Devin Hester, Chi.	52	1436	27.6	80	0
10. RB Jordan Todman, Jac.	26	712	27.4	59	0
11. RB LaMichael James, S.F.	12	321	26.8	41	0
12. WR Keshawn Martin, Hou.	36	947	26.3	50	0
13. WR Brandon Tate, Cin.	35	914	26.1	71	0
14. WR Damaris Johnson, Phil.	17	441	25.9	33	0
15. WR Eric Page, T.B.	22	548	24.9	44	0
16. WR David Reed, Ind.	24	590	24.6	39	0
17. WR Josh Cribbs, NYJ	20	490	24.5	42	0
18. CB Micah Hyde, G.B.	22	531	24.1	70	0
19. DB Taiwan Jones, Oak.	26	623	24.0	41	0
20. WR Ted Ginn, Car.	25	595	23.8	38	0
21. RB Jacquizz Rodgers, Atl.	25	575	23.0	34	0
22. RB Benny Cunningham, St.L.	13	299	23.0	32	0
23. WR Jacoby Ford, Oak.	11	253	23.0	30	0
24. WR Micheal Spurlock, Det.	15	338	22.5	36	0
25. WR Jerrel Jernigan, NYG	11	246	22.4	46	0
26. RB Marcus Thigpen, Mia.	39	870	22.3	50	0
27. RB Felix Jones, Pitt.	23	510	22.2	42	0
28. WR Tavon Austin, St.L.	18	398	22.1	32	0
29. WR Marquise Goodwin, Buff.	16	351	21.9	28	0
30. RB Michael Cox, NYG	20	436	21.8	56	0
31. WR Jermaine Kearse, Sea.	13	283	21.8	40	0
32. RB Danny Woodhead, S.D.	12	262	21.8	37	0
33. CB Javier Arenas, Ariz.	23	493	21.4	46	0
34. RB Darren Sproles, N.O.	12	255	21.3	32	0
35. RB Fozzy Whittaker, Clev.	23	482	21.0	56	0
36. TE Niles Paul, Wash.	20	411	20.6	39	0
37. WR Josh Morgan, Wash.	12	239	19.9	25	0

PUNT RETURNS, TEAM

How teams fared on punt returns in 2013.

	No	FC	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	2012 Avg-Lg-TD
1. Minnesota	22	0	335	15.2	86t	1	9.0-77t-1
2. Baltimore	43	0	609	14.2	82t	1	9.4-63t-1
3. Chicago	18	1	256	14.2	81t	1	7.6-44-0
4. Pittsburgh	32	0	409	12.8	67t	1	7.3-63-0
5. Dallas	31	1	386	12.5	86t	1	12.4-78t-1
6. Kansas City	59	0	695	11.8	89t	2	8.7-27-0
7. Green Bay	30	0	339	11.3	93t	1	11.0-75t-1
8. Tampa Bay	24	1	268	11.2	52	0	9.0-39-0
9. Seattle	52	0	579	11.1	71	0	8.5-52-0
10. Cleveland	38	0	418	11.0	79t	1	14.8-93t-1
11. New England	36	0	387	10.8	43	0	12.0-68t-1
12. Carolina	30	0	316	10.5	41	0	10.2-69-0
13. Detroit	38	0	392	10.3	58t	1	8.6-48-0
14. Indianapolis	33	0	326	9.9	51	0	11.1-75t-1
15. Cincinnati	47	1	424	9.0	43	0	10.4-81t-1
16. NY Jets	25	0	224	9.0	24	0	10.3-68t-1
17. San Francisco	35	0	312	8.9	40	0	10.5-38-0
18. St. Louis	43	0	378	8.8	98t	1	6.6-23-0
19. Houston	42	0	360	8.6	87t	1	10.9-71-0
20. Atlanta	30	0	250	8.3	25	0	7.9-28-0
21. Oakland	25	0	206	8.2	30	0	5.1-47-0
22. Denver	44	0	343	7.8	81t	1	9.3-76t-1
23. Miami	34	0	264	7.8	34	0	11.2-72t-1
24. Tennessee	31	0	240	7.7	35	0	15.3-81t-3
25. San Diego	22	1	166	7.5	28	0	9.7-63t-1
26. NY Giants	34	0	246	7.2	32	0	7.2-18-0
27. Philadelphia	26	0	171	6.6	32	0	10.3-98t-1
28. Washington	35	0	225	6.4	34	0	9.3-64-0
29. Buffalo	39	0	243	6.2	25	0	17.1-88t-2
30. New Orleans	32	0	194	6.1	28	0	7.6-37-0
31. Arizona	34	0	198	5.8	22	0	8.2-26-0
32. Jacksonville	30	0	142	4.7	17	0	7.3-28-0

PUNT RETURNS, INDIVIDUAL

Return averages for players who returned at least 10 punts in 2013.

	Ret	FC	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	Fum
1. Jeremy Ross, Det.	15	15	243	16.2	58t	1	1
2. Tandon Doss, Balt.	23	7	359	15.6	82t	1	1
3. Marcus Sherels, Minn.	22	27	335	15.2	86t	1	3
4. Devin Hester, Chi.	18	11	256	14.2	81t	1	1
5. Dwayne Harris, Dall.	20	10	256	12.8	86t	1	2
6. Antonio Brown, Pitt.	32	23	409	12.8	67t	1	1
7. Jacoby Jones, Balt.	19	2	237	12.5	37	0	0
8. Micah Hyde, G.B.	24	14	296	12.3	93t	1	2
9. Ted Ginn, Car.	26	26	316	12.2	41	0	0
10. Dexter McCluster, K.C.	58	11	686	11.8	89t	2	2
11. Travis Benjamin, Clev.	22	7	257	11.7	79t	1	2
12. Golden Tate, Sea.	51	14	585	11.5	71	0	1
13. LaMichael James, S.F.	23	12	251	10.9	40	0	2
14. Eric Page, T.B.	23	20	251	10.9	52	0	1
15. Julian Edelman, N.E.	35	23	374	10.7	43	0	5
16. Robert McClain, Atl.	19	9	193	10.2	25	0	1
17. T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	17	12	159	9.4	34	0	1
18. Brandon Tate, Cin.	36	16	336	9.3	43	0	1
19. Keshawn Martin, Hou.	39	21	345	8.8	87t	1	0
20. Jeremy Kerley, NYJ	13	5	115	8.8	24	0	0
21. Trindon Holliday, Den.	32	11	271	8.5	81t	1	5
22. Tavon Austin, St.L.	33	11	280	8.5	98t	1	3
23. Damaris Johnson, Phil.	12	12	100	8.3	21	0	1
24. Keenan Allen, S.D.	15	13	125	8.3	28	0	1
25. Rueben Randle, NYG	29	24	237	8.2	32	0	2
26. Adam Jones, Cin.	11	0	88	8.0	27	0	0
27. Marcus Thigpen, Mia.	34	20	264	7.8	34	0	2
28. Santana Moss, Wash.	18	8	130	7.2	18	0	1
29. Wes Welker, Den.	10	2	70	7.0	27	0	1
30. Cole Beasley, Dall.	10	3	68	6.8	14	0	0
31. Darren Sproles, N.O.	29	21	194	6.7	28	0	1
32. Micheal Spurlock, Det.	22	12	145	6.6	57	0	0
33. Patrick Peterson, Ariz.	33	22	198	6.0	22	0	3
34. Harry Douglas, Atl.	10	3	57	5.7	15	0	1
35. Leodis McKelvin, Buff.	32	13	180	5.6	21	0	7
36. Ace Sanders, Jac.	25	16	140	5.6	17	0	0
37. DeSean Jackson, Phil.	14	8	71	5.1	32	0	0

Regrets... I've had a few... But then again...

Ever walk out of draft and immediately wish you'd done things differently?

That was how I felt after drawing the unlucky 13th spot in a 14-team experts draft. I started my team off with Zac Stacy, Alfred Morris and Ryan Mathews. The draft went fine after that – highlighted by the Fantasy Index special of Tom Brady and Julian Edelman – but those top 3 picks weren't sitting well with me.

I couldn't put my finger on what exactly it was that bothered me. Little things, I guess. The Rams drafted Tre Mason in the third round to steal Stacy's job, Morris can't catch and has a new coaching staff, Mathews is Mathews. But mostly it was just a vague sense that regardless of what my rankings told me each time I was on the clock, this team was going to be a dog.

I was still thinking about it a week later, after running our own annual Experts Draft (Pages 50-55). That influenced the question I asked each expert afterward: *If you could go back and do things over, what would you change?*

I hoped their answers would help give me some closure of my own. (As an aside, I've long felt this is why we're fascinated by time travel concepts in popular entertainment.) We can't go back and do things over. Whatever happened, happened. But what if we could?

Some experts fell back on humor. Mark Maloney said, "I wouldn't try to eat and draft simultaneously; turns out I'm just not that talented." But then he let slip an actual regret, over his first-round pick. "I probably didn't need to jump at Peyton Manning. I could have had a more balanced team by taking a running back first and waiting for Drew Brees."

Lroy Anthony Hale took a similar tack at first ("I was not having a good hair day and maybe should gone with a second rinse"), before turning serious. "I got too cute for this level of competition and waited too long on grabbing Michael Floyd and Devonta Freeman, two players I really coveted."

Hale's answer helped me pinpoint the first critical element of regret: The Players You Didn't Get. Had I passed on Stacy, I could have taken the wide receiver I really wanted, Dez Bryant, who went at 1.14. Maybe Stacy would still have been there at 2.02? I'll never know. Lesson: Trust your rankings, but take the players you really want. You'll feel worse missing out on them than dropping a notch or two down your draft board to make sure you get them. I did, anyway.

Micah James regretted his second-round selection of Jimmy Graham. "Given how many running backs went off the board in the first 14 picks, I wish I had selected Arian Foster or Alfred Morris."

James' answer made me think that I had been a little bit too

rigid in my selection of a running back at 2.02, rather than shifting gears the way the draft had (4 wide receivers in the first 15 picks) to take my top wideout. Like the old Boy Scouts credo and the wise counsel of Tom Lehrer, you've got to be ready for anything. And although I entered that experts draft with some solid positional rankings, in retrospect, I think I should have spent more time blending the various positions.

Morris was the highest running back left on my board, and I fretted that the one I'd be left with at 3.13 would be awful if I didn't jump at him. But in fact, Mathews was there, and he would have been fine. With slightly quicker draft room reactions, I'd have taken Jordy Nelson there, and still got Mathews a round later. Lesson: Be prepared.

Now we were getting somewhere. I regretted my selections, which were technically correct but went against my gut, and my real-time adjustments, which may have been lacking.

Unfortunately, other experts weren't as ready to commiserate.

"It is rare for me to come out of a draft and say I wouldn't change a thing," said Cory Bonini. "But I am quite happy with this team. It smoothly blends veterans, upside youth, big-play threats, steady producers and red-zone weapons into a tasty treat."

Gah. That guy, right? There's one in every league; a guy smugly pleased with his draft and his picks, without any regrets at all. Fortunately, there's only one of them.

"What would I change?" chimed in David Dodds. "Nothing. I loved how this draft fell."

This was not, of course, the kind of reassuring, misery-loves-company regret I was looking for. After our Experts Draft, I got the sense that most of the experts were, in fact,

fairly pleased with their teams. They had no regrets whatsoever.

Was it just that they were prepared and took the players they wanted? Or was there something more to it?

Like The Grinch on the top of Mount Crumpit, I puzzled over it for a while. And then I think I figured it out.

We don't get do-overs. Whatever happened, happened. The difference between the people happy or unhappy with their teams wasn't as simple as gut feelings or second thoughts. Not that those didn't occur, but we all have those, probably after every draft.

I think the difference was as simple as moving on, and looking forward instead of back. Not thinking, "I could have drafted Dez," but rather, "Alf could run for 1,500 yards and score 10 TDs." The difference wasn't in the decisions people had made. It was in how they reacted to those decisions after the fact.

My backs are Stacy and Morris, and I've got Mathews in the flex. That's how it happened. I wouldn't change a thing.



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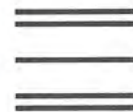
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